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JOHN CANDY
IN HIS OWN MARVEL MAG!

WOLVERINE®

WRITER LARRY HAMA SPEAKS! WHO IS MARVEL'S LATEST, GREATEST HERO?

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in March.

Titles Shipping March 6
On Sale March 27

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #58—Talk about trouble—the **Avengers** are up past their necks in problems! **Magneto** makes his big move! The **Scarlet Witch** turns traitor! And just whose side is **Quicksilver** on? Also . . . did **Tigra** kill—and eat—**Dr. Pym**? Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Paul Ryan.** $1.00.

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☐ **CAMP CANDY** #1—The hit Saturday morning cartoon show is now in its own all-original comic book series! And camp counselor **John Candy** has to save Camp Candy from the evil real estate development designs of **Rex DeForrest!** Written by **Angelo DeCesare,** penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher.** $1.00.

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JOHN CANDY IN...
CAMP CANDY
1ST SPECTACULAR ISSUE!
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DON'T BE SO SCARED, NICK! HEADLESS HARRY IS JUST A LEGEND!!
The Legend of Headless Harry!
CAMP CANDY ©1990 DIC Enterprises and SABAN Productions

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #370—The **Red Skull** escapes from the prison **Magneto** put him in. And now the **Red Skull** and **Crossbones** and the **Skeleton Crew** are out for revenge! Written by **Mark Gruenwald,** penciled by **Ron Lim,** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #280—The fate of **Black Bolt**'s child—and much, *much*, more revealed! Guest-starring the **Inhumans** and . . . **Mephisto!** Written by **Ann Nocenti,** penciled by **John Romita, Jr.,** and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.00.

☐ **NAMOR** #2—**Namor** versus the **Griffin!** But—wait! The world thinks that **Namor** is dead! Who knows differently? And, more importantly, what *new* enemy wants to see him dead? Written and penciled by **John Byrne,** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

☐ **STEELTOWN ROCKERS Limited Series** #2—The saga of troubled teens trying to build a new life with their rock band continues. The rockers hear a great new drummer, but before they can sign him up, they have to dump their present drummer. Meanwhile they discover that their new keyboardist has a king-size attitude! Written by **Elaine Lee** and drawn by **Steve Leialoha.** $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #64—An Acts of Vengeance follow-up! In a slug-fest you have to see to believe, **Spidey** finds himself fighting **Goliath, Titania, Brothers Grimm, Graviton, Trapster,** and the **Chameleon!** No problem, right? **Spidey**'s got his **Captain Universe** powers , right? Wrong! Also: **Peter Parker** gets fired from the Daily Bugle! The charge—faking **Spider-Man** photos! Written by **Gerry Conway,** penciled by **Alex Saviuk,** and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **X-MEN** #261—Here's a battle all mutant-lovers have been waiting for! **Colossus** versus the **Genoshan Press Gang!** A blockbuster! Written by **Chris Claremont,** penciled by **Marc Silvestri,** and inked by **Dan Green.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #49—**Wolverine, Daredevil, Devil Slayer,** and **Gladiator** in four new action-packed stories!

WOLVERINE Part II—**Wolverine** and **Spider-Man** team up to save a young mutant's life. And it's going to take all of their power, and a lot of luck to do it! Written and drawn by **Erik Larsen.**

DEVIL SLAYER Conclusion—**Devil Slayer** no more! Did the **Flying Dutchman** finally win **Devil Slayer**'s soul? A shocker! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman,** penciled by **Rod Ramos,** and inked by **Mark McKenna.**

Plus complete in this issue:

Daredevil fights **Scope**—a man with almost identical powers to his own—and loses! Written by **John Figueroa,** penciled by **Ron Wilson,** and inked by **Jeff Albrecht.**

Gladiator faces an uncanny struggle for purpose and life! It's a haunting story written by **Len Kaminski,** penciled by **Don Heck** and inked by **Vince Mielcarek.** Biweekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SHE-HULK** #15—"The Cosmic Squish Principle" Part 2. Guest-starring **Howard the Duck.** Our universe is invaded by a horde of universes! How are **She-Hulk** and **Howard** going to cope with this new reality? Written by **Steve Gerber,** penciled by **Brian Hitch,** and inked by **Jim Sanders.** Cover drawn by **Brian Bolland.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **STALKERS** #2—The **Stalker** anti-terrorist team from Detroit is really in a fix! Not only do they have to stop terrorists from exploding two nuclear devices, they also have to prevent a corporate plot to overthrow the government! Written by **Jan Strnad** and **Mark Verheiden** and drawn by **Mark Texeira.** An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **ELSEWHERE PRINCE** Limited Series #1—Explore the world of **Moebius's** Airtight Garage in this limited series of all-new adventures! A young artist joins a group of soldiers who embark on the greatest adventure of their lives! Plotted by **Moebius,** scripted by **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier,** and drawn by **Eric Shanower.** Plus: an all-new tale of **Major Grubert** written and drawn by **Moebius.** An Epic comic. Hudson Offset paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.95.

☐ **PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #10—Re-presenting from THE PUNISHER #11, the brutal drug story, "The Search" and from THE PUNISHER #14 the **Punisher's** hard lesson to high school students in "Social Studies." Both stories written by **Mike Baron,** penciled by **Whilce Portacio,** and inked by **Scott Williams.** Cover painting by **Joe Jusko.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. $2.25.

☐ **CRITICAL MASS** #4—Four tales from the Shadowline Saga.

The climactic confrontation between **Devlin** and **Shreck!** There's only one problem—**Shreck** crushed **Devlin's St. George** armor last time around! Now the armor is useless! To make matters worse, **Devlin** must also confront his Roman-Catholic beliefs to decide if he can kill his opponent!

The **evil Dr. Henry Clerk** throws one last monkey wrench at **Dr. Zero** to make sure the hero doesn't interfere with his plans. **Zero** poses a threat to **Sheila,** the only human **Dr. Zero** has ever loved.

Plus: Two peeks at the past of **Henry Clerk!** One is from his days at college, and in both stories, he demonstrates how he got to be the nasty guy he is today!

All stories written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark,** with art by some of the top pros in the business! **Bret Blevins, Jorge Zaffino, John Ridgway,** and **Mike Manley.** An Epic Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

☐ **HELLRAISER** #2—The anthology series based on concepts from **Clive Barker's** horror movies continues!

A corrupt South American prison warden faces a frightening interrogation in "The Vault." Written by **Marc McLaurin,** penciled by **Jorge Zaffino,** and inked by **Julie Michels.**

A patient at a leper hospital discovers a new way to cure his disease—unaware of the consequences! "Divers Hands" is written by **James Robert Smith** and drawn by **Mike Hoffman.**

A writer in hell must create perfection for his demonic masters. But they want to revise his work. "Writer's Lament" is written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neill.**

A computer specialist uses his machines to test the limits of pain. "The Threshold" is written by **Mark Kneece** and **Scott Hampton** and drawn by **Scott Hampton.**

A musician's notes compose a lullaby for hell. "Songs of Metal Flesh," is written by "Hellbound" screenplay writer **Peter Atkins** and illustrated by **David Dorman** and **Lurene Haines.** Plus: pinups by **Bill Sienkiewicz, A.C. Farley,** and **Mike Mignola.** An Epic Graphic Album series. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $4.95.

Titles Shipping March 13
On Sale April 3

☐ **ALF** #29—**ALF** sets journalism back fifty years when he and **Brian** become investigative reporters! Written by **Michael Gallagher,** penciled by **Dave Manak,** and inked by **Marie Severin.** Featuring a wacky "3-D" cover by **Dave Manak!** $1.00.

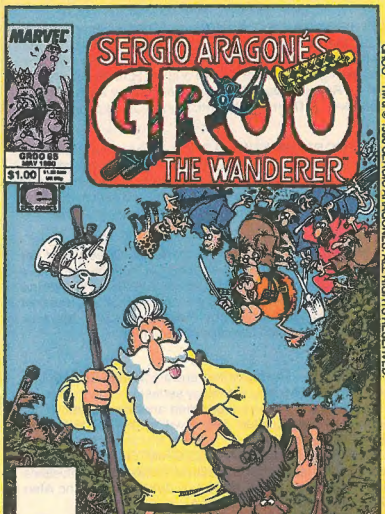
☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #332—**Venom** returns! And to make things even worse for **Spider-Man**—**Styx** and **Stone** are back, courtesy of **Mary Jane's** nemesis, **Jonathan Caesar!** Written by **David Michelinie,** penciled by **Erik Larsen,** inked by **Mike Machlan** $1.00.

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #32—Two tales of Avengers in solo action!

Hawkeye's war on Hollywood gangs continues, Only now the police are after **Hawkeye**—and the charge is serial murder! Written by **Steve Gerber,** penciled by **Al Milgrom,** and inked by **Don Heck.**

USAgent is in a race against time to stop the **Xenophobic Man** from slaying more illegal aliens! Written by **Fabian Nicieza,** penciled by **Dan Lawlis,** and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #65—**Groo** does something so stupid that even he can't stand himself! Then Groo tries to make amends. And if you think that makes matters worse, you're right! Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier.** An Epic comic. $1.00.



☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #47—Look out bad guys—there's a new caped crusader cat-apulting your way courtesy of **Heathcliff . . . Cat-Man!** It's the wildest, wackiest, and most satirical **Heathcliff** story yet! "The First Adventure of **Cat-Man**" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #89—The Fate of **Rahne! Cable** escapes from **Freedom Force!** Miss this adventure, and you'll miss *the* pivotal mutant story of the month! Written by **Louise Simonson,** penciled by **Rob Liefeld,** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

☐ **THE Nth MAN** #12—The **Nth Man** battles **Novikova's** KGB Swallows. **Doc, Deb, Sgt. Sargent** and **Soloviev** try to land a bomber on Washington, D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue. And **Alfie** commences his crusade to save the universe! This one's just full of unexpected action! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks.** $1.00.

☐ **QUASAR** #10—**Quasar** is kidnaped by two Kree who are determined to use **Quasar's** quantum bands to advance the Kree's evolution! Wait'll you see the battle writer **Mark Gruenwald**, penciler **Mike Manley**, and inker **Danny Bulanadi** have cooked up for you—it's a doozy! $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #84—**Talisman** disappears to battle **Llan** on her own. And that leaves the **Sorcerer** free to open the Gateway of Night and usher in the greatest danger **Alpha Flight** and the Earth have ever faced! The first part in the ultimate **Alpha Flight/Sorcerer** trilogy! Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **John Calimee**, and inked by **Mike Manley.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE SAGA OF THE HUMAN TORCH** Limited Series #2—The **Human Torch** takes on a partner, **Toro**, and together they battle the Nazis in World War II in the rip-roarin' recounting of the history of the original **Human Torch!** Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Rich Buckler**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **TOMORROW KNIGHTS** #1—They are 21st Century trouble-shooters defending the government from corporate takeover! And it's the ultimate in cyberpunk action! Written and inked by **Roy Richardson**, and penciled by **Rod Whigham.** An Epic Comic. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #24—She is the **Snow Queen!** And her plans for the desperate street urchins of Madripoor are more frightening than their worst nightmares! Will even **Wolverine** be able to save them? Before you answer that, you must not miss this shocker written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Gene Colan.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **STRIP** #5—The top writers and artists from Great Britain star in this hit biweekly anthology series!

MARSHAL LAW—re-presenting another chapter in the acclaimed Epic Limited Series written by **Pat Mills** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neil.**

CHRONICLES OF GENGHIS GRIMTOAD—An all-new tale of anthropomorphic medieval fantasy, with witticisms and whatnot, eh, what? Written by **John Wagner** and **Alan Grant** and drawn by **Ian Gibson.**

STORM: THE PIRATES OF PANDARVE—The acclaimed British fantasy strip now available in the U.S.! Written by **Martin Lodewijk** and drawn by **Don Lawrence.** A Marvel U.K. comic. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. **$2.50.**

☐ **GHOST RIDER** #1—The **Ghost Rider** returns in this special double-size issue! But this Spirit of Vengeance has a new motorcycle, a new costume, and a new body! And in his first blockbuster adventure, the **Ghost Rider** takes on **Deathwatch** and the **Kingpin!** 48 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.95.

☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES** #1—Because you demanded it! A humongous 80-page anthology series featuring action-packed stories about all your favorite Marvel super heroes by some of the greatest talents in the industry!

MOON KNIGHT—**Moon Knight** returns to his old Chicago haunts . . . and finds that doing so was definitely not a good idea! Written by **Robert Ingersoll** and drawn by **Mike Gustovich.**

HERCULES—**Hercules** gets paid a visit by an old enemy with a long memory! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark,** penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.**

BLACK PANTHER—The **Black Panther** is caught up in one of the cruelest battles of his life when he has to fight a renegade member of his own tribe! Written by **Richard Bensam,** penciled by **Ron Lim** and inked by **Jim Sanders.**

HELLCAT—**Hellcat** faces the demonic challenge of her career . . . and that's the good news. The bad news is, the challenge could cost her her life! Written by **Scott Lobdell** and drawn by **Dennis Jensen.**

MAGIK—A tale of **Magik's** past. Written by **Sue Flaxman,** penciled by **Rod Ramos**, and inked by **Pat Redding.**

BROTHER VOODOO—Writer **Scott Lobdell**, penciler **Fred Hembeck**, and inker **Dell Barras** finally did it! And wait'll you see the story they did!

SPEEDBALL—A poignant tale of ambition gone awry written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Steve Ditko**, and inked by **Chris Ivy.** 80 pages. Mando Offset paper. $2.25.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #173—**Conan** and his mercenaries are besieged in a walled mountain city. But the surrounding army threatening to kill them is not half as dangerous as the unliving menace existing beneath the city's streets! "A Tomb for the Living" is written by **John Arcudi** and drawn by **Ernie Chan.** Plus a power-packed portfolio of same of **Robert E. Howard**'s mightiest heroes! Cover painting by **Nicholas Jainschigg.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **PLASTIC FORKS Limited Series** #2—Scientist **Henry Apt** tries to discover who implanted his duplicating device in him. But his search exposes him to some of the most bizarre dangers imaginable! Written and drawn by **Ted McKeever.** An Epic Graphic Album. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

☐ **DAREDEVIL: MARKED FOR DEATH Trade Paperback**—Re-presenting from DAREDEVIL #159, 160, 161, 163, and 164 **Daredevil**'s classic battles with **Bullseye** and the **Hulk** and the first appearance of Daily Bugle reporter **Ben Urich.** Written by **Roger McKenzie**, penciled by **Frank Miller**, and inked by **Klaus Janson.** 176 pages. Direct Sales only. $12.95.

Titles Shipping March 20
On Sale April 10

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #317—The **Nebula** saga continues! This time, the Stranger is out to get Nebula! It's a battle that the **Avengers** wish they could miss—but one that you'd better not, because it guest stars **Spider-Man!** Written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer.** $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #232 — Writer **Michael Higgins**, penciler **Ron Lim**, and inker **Dan Adkins** debut as the new creative team! Witness the birth of **Conan**—and the battle that destroyed his village! Is that any way to treat a newborn barbarian? $1.00

☐ **G.I. JOE** #100—Special 48-page battle-filled blockbuster! The original **Cobra Commander** is back! **Cobra** is swept by civil war! **G.I. Joe** is on the move! And you are under orders to be here to witness every thrilling moment! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin.** $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #88—Exclusive preview of THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY series! A sneak peek at THE BLACK KNIGHT Limited Series. Plus: **Stan**'s Soapbox, **Mark**'s Remarks, **Hembeck**'s Page, Marvel Trivia Quiz, and more! $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #237—Re-presenting Part 1 of the bone-crushing tale from MARVEL TEAM-UP #150! It's **Spider-Man** and the **X-Men** versus **Black Tom** and **Juggernaut!** Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Greg LaRoque**, and inked by **Mike Esposito.** Plus another new tale of **Peter Parker** before he became **Spider-Man. "Petey"** is written and drawn by **Fred Hembeck.** New cover drawn by **Todd McFarlane.** $1.00.

☐ **POLICE ACADEMY** #9—The place is Washington, D.C. The scene is the Invention Convention. The **Police Academy** gang are there to help a friend. Instead, they get involved in extraterrestrial mayhem! Sounds wild? Wait'll you see "A Capital Adventure" written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher.** $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #37—**Drax the Destroyer** is mad at the **Silver Surfer!** So mad he wants to annihilate the **Surfer!** What got **Drax** so furious? The answer will astonish you! Written by **Jim Starlin**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Tod Christopher.** $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #369—**Dale Keown** debuts as the new regular penciler! **Freedom Force** has a new assignment—intercept the **Hulk!** Written by **Peter David** and inked by **Bob McLeod.** $1.00.

☐ **PUNISHER** #33—From the pages of the X-MEN come the Reavers, and they are not happy! When Microchip taps into the Reaver's computer system, the Australia-based super-group decides to take action. First they trash the Punisher's warehouse. After that, they trash Micro and the Punisher! Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Bill Reinhold**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** Cover drawn by **Klaus Janson.** $1.00.

☐ **ROBOCOP** #3—Blackmail, extortion, and murder are just some of the threats faced by corporate bigwigs. **Robocop**'s assignment is to recover the stolen property that has them in a sweat. But when he discovers what it is he's supposed to recover, the consequence could be political dynamite! Written by **Alan Grant**, penciled by **Lee Sullivan**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SHIELD** #1 —**Nick Fury** takes a vacation in Scotland, and winds up in mystic trouble that would make even **Dr. Strange** worry! Written by **Alan Grant** and drawn by **Cam Kennedy.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE DESTROYER** #8—A revenge-crazed scientist invents an earthquake machine. And somehow **Remo** and **Chiun** must find a way to get past his incredible defenses and stop him before he destroys Colorado! Written by **Will Murray**, penciled by **Rik Levins**, and inked by **Chris Ivy**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **NIGHTBREED** #2—Continuing the adaptation of the **Clive Barker** movie! **Boone** becomes one of the **Nightbreed.** Now he must save his girl friend from a fate worse than death! Written by **Alan Grant**, penciled by **John Wagner**, and inked by **Jim Baikie.** An Epic comic. Flambeau Offset paper. $1.95.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #50—**Wolverine, Comet Man,** the **Silver Surfer,** and **Captain Ultra!**

WOLVERINE Conclusion — **Wolverine** commits the ultimate sacrifice to save a young mutant! Why can **Spider-Man** do nothing to help **Wolverine?** Written and drawn by **Erik Larsen.**

COMET MAN Part 1—**Comet Man** returns to Earth to find his son—and gets into more trouble than he imagined! Written by **Bill Mumy** and **Miguel Ferrer**, penciled by **Kelly Jones**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc.**

Plus complete in this issue:

The **Silver Surfer** is trapped in a black hole controlled by an intergalactic slaver! Written by **Ed Simmons**, penciled by **Jack Sparling**, and inked by **Chris Ivy.**

Captain Ultra seeks therapy to combat his weakness to fire. And, to make ends meet, he becomes a stand-up comedian in New York City—but runs into a very dangerous heckler. Written by **Scott Lobdell**, penciled by **Dennis Jensen**, and inked by **Dan Adkins.** Biweekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **WHAT IF. . .?** #13—One of the most ominous tales of alternate reality ever presented is told when the **Watcher** reveals, "What If **Professor X** Had Become the **Juggernaut?**" Written by **Kurt Busiek**, penciled by **Vince Mielcarek**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #22—The conclusion of the **Crusader X** saga! **Excalibur** faces its greatest inter-dimensional challenge yet! Written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Chris Wozniak.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **HERO Limited Series** #1—Meet the most unlikely hero of all in this saga of a man's unending obligation to combat evil—an obligation that begins after he is killed! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Steve Purcell**, and inked by **Sam de la Rosa.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO MAGAZINE** #159—It's *the* magazine about the longest-running science-fiction television series in the world! Find out what goes into each episode with the exclusive articles and interviews of key behind-the-scenes staffers! Plus—a special pull-out section listing all the facts, figures, cast lists and more of season 26 of the *Doctor Who* television show! Not only that, but Messrs. **Donkin, Bond** and **Ridgway** have written and drawn the first chapter in a thrilling comic strip serial featuring the fan-favorite supporting cast member, **Sarah Jane Smith!** A Marvel U.K. black and white magazine. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **FANTASY ZONE** #7 — Marvel's monthly mag on science-fiction and fantasy TV shows and movies, straight from Great Britain! This issue has features on actor **Donald Pleasance**, writer **Terry Pratchett**, the make-up and monster effects on NIGHTBREED, **Jim Henson's** creature workshop, and the TV versions of ALIEN NATION and WAR OF THE WORLDS! A Marvel UK magazine. 40 pages. Direct Sales only.

☐ **BLUEBERRY 5: END OF THE TRAIL Graphic Novel**—The internationally acclaimed Western series continues! **Lt. Blueberry** returns to Mexico to find the only person who can clear his name. **Blake** and **Angel Face** plan another assassination of **President Grant.** And **Chihuahua Pearl** makes wedding plans. Written by **Jean Michel Charlier** and illustrated by **Moebius.** An Epic Graphic Novel series. 96 pages. Direct Sales only. $12.95.

Titles Shipping March 27
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☐ **COUNT DUCKULA** #11—**Count Duckula**, the vegetarian vampire duck, faces his own worst nightmare when he is confronted by **Freddie Cuckooger** in "Nightingale on Elm Street!" Written by **Michael Gallagher** and penciled by **Warren Kremer.** $1.00

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #340—The conclusion of the Time Bubble saga! We'd love to tell you more, but why spoil the fun? But what we will say is that it's one of writer/artist **Walter Simonson's** best tales yet! $1.00.

☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #164—Because you demanded it—the **Beetle** is back! And **Spidey** gets involved in some of the wildest high-flying action of his life! Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema.** $1.00.

☐ **IRON MAN** #256—Armor Wars II Part I! **Tony Stark's** body rejects the biochip that allows him to walk! And the murderous return of **Blacklash!** Written and inked by **Bob Layton** and penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** $1.00.

☐ **SOLARMAN** #2—The teen super hero possessing the power of the sun returns! And this time he's got to stop **Doctor Doom** who's holding the world hostage! Written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Nestor Redondo.** $1.00.

☐ **THOR** #417—To set **Hercules** free, **Thor** must defeat his malevolent master. Thus **Thor** takes on one of the most horrifying menaces in the Marvel Universe—**Malakon**, the comic vampire! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott.** Plus in Tales of Asgard: **Leir**, lord of lighting, wants **Sif** for his mate. Will the **Warriors Three** be strong enough to stop him? Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Gary Hartle**, and inked by **Mike DeCarlo.** $1.00

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #66—The incredible conclusion of the galaxy-spanning **Matrix Quest!** It's the greatest battle in Transformers history as the now evil **Creation Matrix** tries to destroy everyone! Written by **Simon Furman** and drawn by **Geoff Senior.** Cover penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Bob Layton.** $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #54—It's reunion time when **X-Factor** meets **Colossus** and **Callisto.** But it's not a happy meeting because something's terribly wrong with **Colossus!** Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** $1.00.

☐ **DR. STRANGE** #17—"The Vampiric Verses" Part 4. **Dr. Strange** and his friends race to stop **Marie LaVeau** from reviving the first and deadliest vampire in history! And if you think you know who it is, you're wrong—this guy's worse! Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas** and drawn by **Jackson Guice.** Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #14 — It's the brutal climax of the Revolution in Burunda saga! **Moon Knight** against the **Bushman**—and more! Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Sal Velluto**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #44—Three tales of Vietnam! The war as seen from three different sides. A gripping revelation guest-written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled and inked by **Wayne Vansant**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #18—The climax of the Hawaiian Homicide Horror trilogy! The **Punisher** gets revenge on **Microchip's** enemies! Written by **Carl Potts**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #38—Re-presenting from CONAN THE BARBARIAN #94 and #95, the legendary **Amra** Saga! "The Beast-King of Abombi" and "The Return to Amra" are written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #47—You knew it as CLASSIC X-MEN, now it's X-MEN CLASSIC! And this issue re-presents from X-MEN #143 the gripping tale of **Kitty Pryde's** first solo battle — against an alien! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. $1.25.

☐ **STRIP** #36—The biweekly anthology series featuring the "Chronicles of **Genghis Grimtoad**" written by **John Wagner** and **Alan Grant** and drawn by **Ian Gibson**, the acclaimed British fantasy "Storm: The Pirates of Pandarve" written by **Martin Lodewijk** and drawn by **Don Lawrence** and re-presenting the controversial MARSHAL LAW Limited Series written by **Pat Mills** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neil** continues! A Marvel U.K. comic. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.50.

A Limited Series is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8 ½" x 11" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" x 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a 6⅝" x 10" high quality, square-bound edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **AKIRA** #19—Tetsuo versus **Akira** in a mind-boggling psychic duel! **Kay** and **Chiyoko** are out to rescue the psychic children held in **Lady Miyako's** temple! Written and drawn by **Katsuhiro Otomo**, English language translation by **Jo Duffy** and computer-coloring by **Steve Oliff**. An Epic Graphic Album series. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $3.95.

☐ **RIO** Graphic Novel—A tale of the West by **Doug Wildey**, creator of **Jonny Quest! Rio** discovers the secret family of **Jesse James** and runs straight into trouble from an unexpected source! An Epic Graphic Novel. 72 pages. Direct Sales only. $9.95.

☐ **MARVEL REQUIRER** #2—The checklist series no Marvelite dares be without continues! Get the first news on what's happening in all our publications shipping in April in this nifty eight-page, full color mini-mag! And best of all— it's FREE! Direct Sales only.

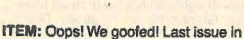
SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

Arsenal—MOON KNIGHT #14
Asp—CAPTAIN AMERICA #370
Beetle—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #164
Black Mamba—CAPTAIN AMERICA #370
Black Tom—CAPTAIN AMERICA #237
Brothers Grimm—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Bullseye—DAREDEVIL Trade Paperback
Bushman—MOON KNIGHT #14
Cerebus—MARVEL SUPER HEROES #1
Chameleon—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Crossbones—CAPTAIN AMERICA #370
Deathwatch—GHOST RIDER #1
Flying Dutchman—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #49
Freedom Force—NEW MUTANTS #89, THE INCREDIBLE HULK #369
Genosha Press Gang—X-MEN #261
Goliath—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Graviton—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Griffin—NAMOR #2
H'ckl'r—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #50
Ice Queen—WOLVERINE #24
Juggernaut—MARVEL TALES #237, WHAT IF. . .? #13
Kingpin—GHOST RIDER #1
Kree—QUASAR #10
Lian—ALPHA FLIGHT #84
Magneto—AVENGERS WEST COAST #58, EXCALIBUR #22
Malakon—THOR #407
Mephisto—DAREDEVIL #280
Nebula—AVENGERS #317
Raptor—MARVEL SUPER HEROES #1
Reavers—THE PUNISHER #33
Red Skull—CAPTAIN AMERICA #370
Scope—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #49
Skeleton Crew—CAPTAIN AMERICA #370
Sorcerer—ALPHA FLIGHT #84
Stranger—AVENGERS #317
Superior—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #50
Sym—MARVEL SUPER HEROES #1
Titania—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Trapster—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #64
Venom—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #332
Xenophobic Man—AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #32
Zreate'th—MARVEL SUPER HEROES #1

NEWSWATCH

ASSORTED OFFERINGS, CAPRICIOUS CREDITS, TOP TENS, AND SECTIONS OF SALICRUP

ITEM: Oops! We goofed! Last issue in NEWSWATCH, we ran a collection of handy tags to stick on to your MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION books. But we messed up on the tag for volume 8. It should have looked like this:



There! That's better. Now you can rip off the old tag, stick this one on instead, and all will be right with the world.

ITEM: If you're looking for something with a different beat,

Then we've got a comic that's really neat!

It's the hottest thing under the sun today,

And the name of the book is STREET POET RAY!

It's a brand-new thing called rap-haiku,

Comin' straight from **Ray** to you!

It's six black-and-white issues coming out bi-monthly,

It's 32 pages and it starts in February!

Now our rhymes can't compare to Ray's,

So why not see what he has to say!

ITEM: Want to try a great new fantasy comic? Well, you'll just have to look elsewhere. ELSEWHERE PRINCE, that is! That's the name of the new six-issue limited series from Epic Comics. ELSEWHERE PRINCE continues the adventures of the characters created in **Moebius** Graphic Novel #3, the AIRTIGHT GARAGE. The artificial world of the Airtight Garage will next appear in Moebius graphic novel #7. The story by Moebius finds a young artist looking to draw the most beautiful women in the world. The script is by **R.J.M. Lofficer,** and the art is by **Eric Shanower,** who is best known for his OZ graphic novels for First Comics. Every time we see the artist's sketch pad in the story, we will actually be looking at a drawing by Moebius! Each issue of ELSEWHERE PRINCE will have 23 pages of story, followed by a five-page back-up entitled "Major's Notebook," containing new Moebius art and text features about the Airtight Garage. There will also be an ELSEWHERE PRINCE poster by Moebius to be released during the second quarter of the year. To enter the fantastic world of the Airtight Garage, pick up ELSEWHERE PRINCE #1 in March!

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Hey, I guess we got so excited last month about MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE finally becoming available at newsstands everywhere, we forgot that the January issue went on sale in mid-January at most comic book shops, and even later on the newsstands.

What that means is, the MARVEL AGE CALENDAR starts the year a little behind schedule. Now, we didn't want to start the calendar back in December because our nifty new newsstand readers would've been left out of the fun. Well, the solution to the problem is obvious. Just run two months of the calendar in one issue, except we didn't think of it until this issue. Duh. So now you know why this extra short version of Salicrup's Section is doing on the Newswatch page—to make room for the extra month of the MARVEL AGE Calendar. Things should be back to normal next ish. Meanwhile, enjoy this cram-packed, exciting issue of . . . well, you know. (You're not a Marvel Zombie if you don't!)

—Jim Salicrup

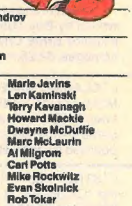
MARVEL® TOP TEN

Brad Feldspar from Athens, GA writes, "Dear **Casey,** That **Debbie Gibson** is really talented. She sings, she writes songs, she dances—she does it all—and she's only 19! I was wondering if you could tell me how many times Debbie has made the Marvel Top Ten." Well, Brad, while Miss Gibson is incredibly versatile, she does not actually work in the comics field. She's really more of a pop singer. As such, she has yet to crack the Marvel Top Ten. But she's still young. Give her time!

With that thought in mind, here now are the Top Marvel Comics in the Direct Sales market for the month of November, as compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales, **Carol Kalish.**

1—**X-MEN #257**
2—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #328**
3—**WOLVERINE #20**
4—**X-FACTOR #50**
5—**EXCALIBUR #18**
6—**PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #14**
7—**PUNISHER #29**
8—**WHAT IF #9**
9—**AVENGERS WEST COAST #54**
10—**AVENGERS #313**

Stan Lee presents
MARVEL AGE®



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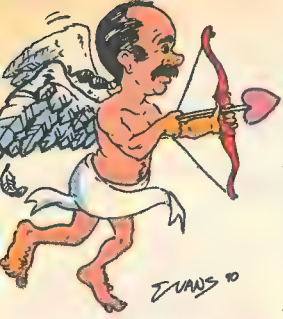


MARK'S REMARKS

Clichés. Things that crop up with such frequency that an alert person can spot them coming a mile away. While clichés can be found in all walks of human endeavor, this month I'm going to talk about comic book plot clichés. My inspiration for addressing this topic comes from one of my favorite correspondents, **Dean Shomshak** of Gig Harbor, WA, who out of the blue sent me his list of candidates for the five biggest clichés found in Marvel Comics. I'm going to quote him verbatim now, then I'll be back with my own list. (Who says writing a monthly column has to be hard?) Take it away, Dean . . .

"1. The U.S. government is up to no good. Okay so the government really does do a lot of bad stuff, but it does good things, too. Some of the bad things are done from good (if mistaken) intentions. Why can't a government agent or agency be in the right once in a while? Even **Sikorsky**, the most sympathetically presented government employee I can think of, keeps being forced into duty playing the heavy.

"2. When mystics and technologists disagree, the mystics are proved right in the end. Alas, no matter how much I like **Dr. Strange** and other magical heroes, the plain truth is in real life mystics are often lunatics or fools. Several Nazi leaders were mystics. The dehumanizing Hindu caste system is based on mysticism. On the other hand, every improvement the modern age can claim over the Renaissance can be traced to solid scientific investigation. I would love to see a mystic be shown up by a scientist or technologist, just once.

"3. Anyone who doesn't hate mutants is a latent mutant, or has a super-powered relative in the family. None of the mutant heroes has a human friend who's appeared more than twice in the last four years. The senator who disapproved of the **Stryker** Crusade turned out to be a latent mutant. The **Power** parents have super-powered children though they don't know it yet. Fortunately **Chris Claremont**, who built this cliché singlehandedly, may now be dismantling it. I'll be watching to see if he wimps out with **Alistair** and **Alysande Stuart** in EXCALIBUR and X-MEN.

"4. Mutants always talk about themselves as a separate species. 'Mutants and humans must learn to live together'—not 'people with and without weird powers must learn to live together.' Talk about letting the opposition control the dialog.

"5. Amerindians always call on the Great Spirit. Never mind up to 400 years of missionary work. American Indians are never ever ordinary Catholics or Presbyterians or Baptists—and these do exist in real life. (**Wyatt Wingfoot** may be the exception, since I can't remember him showing any religious inclination at all.)"

Okay, I'm back. Neat list, huh? My second reaction after I read it (my first being "Neat list, huh?") was didn't I make up a list of comic book clichés I wanted to avoid once? So I dug deep into my closet, skimming through idea notebook after idea notebook until I found it, a list of clichés I swore to avoid as a comic book writer. It's dated May 1976, the year I moved to New York, and two years before I was to write my first professional comic book. Here's what it said:

"As a comic book scripter, I vow to never write comic book stories that contain the following clichés:

"1. A time travel story that undoes itself: where reality twists about such that at the end of the story nobody remembers doing any of the things in the story. Why do a story that doesn't make a difference?

"2. A story where the villain is defeated when the hero or heroes somehow harness emotions, 'goodness,' or some abstract value and bombard the villain with it. I hate that stuff. I don't really believe these values exist as literal, objective energies so they shouldn't be employed as if they were.

"3. An alien invasion story where the aliens waltz down and want to: a) steal and deplete Earth's natural resources, be it animal, vegetable, mineral, plankton, water, etc. Any alien culture with the technology to transport billions of tons of whatever back to their world should be able to come up with an easier solution to whatever shortage they have. b) colonize, apparently unaware that four billion inhabitants already live here and have done a number on Earth's resources. And if they intend to exterminate the population first, what a stupid, messy, time-consuming job. Wouldn't it be easier to terraform Mars? c) destroy Earth for its energy. As if Earth was the only possible fuel source in the tri-planet area . . .!

"4. Poorly motivated hero vs. hero battles. Poor motivations include simple misunderstandings, 'just testing to see if you were all you're reputed to be,' and 'just wanted to make sure you were who you say you are.'

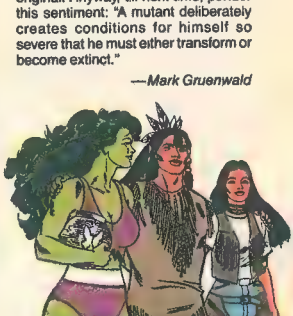
"5. Stories where good triumphs simply because it is "better" than evil. I don't think that's the way the world works, and it's a bad message to put in comics. A better message would be the one who works or tries the hardest wins.

"6. Stories where villains don't take into account past defeats and haven't solved whatever shortcoming it was that allowed them to be defeated last time."

And that's my list. While this isn't particularly a list of Marvel clichés (hey, I didn't know what company I might write for at the time), I have read stories employing these clichés published by Marvel as well as by other companies. Looking back over them thirteen years later, I still stand by them all, though I just might have violated my "poorly motivated hero vs. hero battle" cliché once or twice somewhere. Go ahead, somebody, make me a list of poorly motivated hero vs. hero fights in stories I've written—I challenge you! What I'd like the rest of you to do is send me your list of annoying comic book clichés like good ol' Dean did. If I get enough good ones, I may devote a future column to the topic.

Now I'm going to leave you this time with a quote I found scrawled in the inside front cover of the idea notebook I cribbed my cliché list from. I have no idea where I got it from since I didn't list the source. For all I know it may be original. Anyway, till next time, ponder this sentiment: "A mutant deliberately creates conditions for himself so severe that he must either transform or become extinct."

—Mark Gruenwald



Will Wyatt Wingfoot call on the Great Spirit for help? You'll have to read SHE-HULK: CEREMONY to find out!

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 5 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 8

THE LARRY HAMA INTERVIEW

Wolverine. In English, his real name is Logan. In Japanese, it could be translated as Ro-Gan, which means "old age" or "cancer." Either way you look at it, it means death for his enemies!

Writer Larry Hama is about to launch Wolverine on a three-issue storyline that will once again take the hot-tempered mutant to Japan. The story will involve Wolverine getting involved in the traffic of an illegal drug which is made from the brains of sacred monkeys. The drug is supposed to be a cure for cancer, but... maybe it's not.

The villains for the story are the Yakuza, the Japanese crime cartel. The action begins in Madripoor, when the Yakuza show up to make a deal with the Prince, the General, and Tyger Tiger. The Yakuza figure that Wolverine will be in the way, so "they send 50 guys over to kill him," according to Larry.

The Yakuza assassins are all strung out on a new designer drug, which "pushes their adrenaline level through the roof," Larry said. "They feel no pain, and are perfectly willing to die. These berserkers descend on Wolverine, and he has a very rough time of it."

In part two, Wolverine travels to Yokosuka, which is the port city in Japan. There is a big naval base at Yokosuka, a city which Larry described as "sort of a combination of Passaic (N.J.) and Pittsburgh. It's sort of like the way Osaka is (portrayed) in BLACK RAIN."

The third part of the story features "Wolverine's assault on the bad guys."

Larry used as his model for the story the Japanese Yakuza films, which are quite popular in that country. "The Yakuza films of Japan follow a very rigid stylized formula," Larry began. "Every Yakuza film is exactly the same. They all end with the lone hero going against the bad guys in their headquarters. They always have a graveyard scene, they always have somebody cutting off his finger to atone for something...

"Everyone knows what's going to happen in the story, but *what* happens in the story is not important. It's *how* it happens."

Larry was motivated to bring Wolverine to Japan because he feels that previous comic book stories dealing with the country have not been entirely accurate. "I'd been seeing all these other characters in Japan, and (the creators) always seem to miss the boat. They always have all these people walking around in kimonos... and I just never quite saw (Japan) that way.

"I am Japanese. I do have a good grasp of what makes the culture work, even though I am third generation. But I grew up watching Japanese samurai movies. I used to drag comic book guys to see these movies. I used to get manga (Japanese comics), and I turned a lot of comics people onto them, ten years before they began flooding the comic stores!

Larry mentioned that he is very familiar with many forms of Japanese fighting arts. "I've studied swords, judo, zen archery ..." Larry hopes to make the fight scenes in his story as realistic as possible. "I'd like to see real choreography, with blocks and counters, cause and effect, and results. That's something you see in Japanese comics all the time."

Larry said his 'Wolverine in Japan' tale offers "a chance for me to do a story from my own fairly unique viewpoint. I happen to be from that culture. I want to have a real blood-and-guts Yakuza story."

Japanese comic books are very much inspired by Japanese films, and Larry hopes to include some Japanese film techniques in his Wolverine story. "Japanese comics are extremely cinematic. They are completely based on the audience knowing the conventions of Japanese movies. American audiences are just not familiar with those conventions. Even with AKIRA, there's a lot of stuff American audiences miss. American artists are just beginning to latch onto some of the techniques of Japanese cinema."

Larry said he has always had an affinity for the Wolverine character. "I like Wolverine and Conan and guys like that—guys who like to knock down doors." Larry hopes to do a Wolverine story that is "meaner, and more violent" than what has gone before. "I like the way Wolverine is," Larry continued, "I like what has been done so far. I just think he should be more subtle, more scary."

Just how tough will Larry's version of Wolverine be? Get a load of this! When asked if he'd like to write the Punisher, Larry responded, "Nah—he's too sissy for me!" (Put that gun down, Punisher! We're sure Larry was just kidding!)

Larry summed up his goals for his Wolverine three-parter. "I want to do rip-snorting mutant action. I want to do a story with a character I've always liked and have it kick some butt!"

So if you're a fan of Wolverine, Japan, or just hard-hitting battle action, this story is the one for you!

—*Barry Dutter*

epic-grams

This time out we'll say goodbye (sort of) to one Epic staffer and hello to two others.

Dan Chichester has left his position as a full time editor and part time writer to reverse his roles. Dan will now concentrate his talents on writing for a variety of projects both in and out of the comics field. At Marvel and Epic, keep your eyes peeled for Mr. Chichester's credits to pop up in books like **Night Breed, Nick Fury Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., The Black Widow Special**, and lots of other titles. The Chichester editorial skills honed by years of hard work will continue to see service on the upcoming Epic project, **Weaveworld**. This three-issue graphic novel series will adapt the popular Clive Barker fantasy novel for comics. All of us at Marvel/Epic wish the talented Mr. Chichester much success in all of his future endeavors.

Coming into the Epic editorial fold are Editor **Gregory Wright** and Managing Editor **Marcus McLaurin**—two names that will be familiar to most of you.

Greg's been editing a variety of Marvel titles for some time now. He's also one of the field's top colorists and his credits as a writer have begun materializing all over the place. Some of the projects Mr. Wright will be overseeing include **Stalkers, Interface, Wild Cards, Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser, Robocop** and **Night Breed**.

Mr. McLaurin, as some of you may remember, was my assistant editor for several years. I'm very happy to hand him editorial chores on such books as **Alien Legion** (a book near and dear to my heart!), **Tomorrow Knights, Hellrider**, and a whole bunch of others too new to talk about. Also look for the McLaurin credit as writer on an upcoming **Hellraiser** story.

Speaking of **Hellraiser**, that former Chichester-piloted title along with **Groo, Marshal Law**, and **Plastic Forks** are now edited by **Margaret Clark**.

Now you've got all the info you need to adjust your editorial score cards. All of the editors at Marvel/Epic are working full tilt to provide you with the best in printed visual storytelling entertainment! Hello, goodbye.

—Carl Potts

PRO FILE: Eric Fein

Assistant Editor on: ALPHA FLIGHT, MOON KNIGHT, CLOAK AND DAGGER, NEW WARRIORS, Plus MOON KNIGHT Bookshelf project and RIO Graphic Novel.
Marvel freelance credits (past): A couple of articles for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.
Marvel freelance credits (present): None yet, but I'm working on it!
My place of birth is: Bronx, NY
People who knew me in school thought I was: Quiet.
My hobbies are: Hanging out in Ralph Macchio's office.
My pet peeves are: Typing memos.
My favorite performers are: Harry Chapin, Chuck Mangione, KISS, Van Halen, Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Jack Nicholson, and Humphrey Bogart. (Eclectic, ain't it?)
The last good book I read was: *Our Man in Havana.*
The last good movie I saw was: *The Maltese Falcon*—the Bogart classic.
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Harrison Ford or Lou Costello.
My oddest habit is: Not sleeping through the assistant editors meetings.
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Graduating college with most of my sanity—okay, well *some* of my sanity left.
The reason I got into comics was: To get all of the expensive graphic novels for free.
The biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Macchio, Mike Rockwitz, Danny Fingeroth, Stan Lee, Graham Greene, and Ian Fleming.
The single work of which I am most proud: I don't have a single work.
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write, write, write, and get paid for it!
The worst part of my job is: Paperwork.
When nobody's looking I like to: Play with all the toys on my desk.
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: Classified.

HERO™

LIMITED SERIES

Poor **Cody Pace.** All he ever wanted was to pay off his condo and drive around in his shiny new Corvette. He never wanted to wind up fighting for his life in an alien dimension. And he certainly never wanted to be the last hope of the entire universe. But that's just what he becomes in the new, six-issue HERO Limited Series!

"Cody is a self-centered, Me-Generation security courier from Hoboken, New Jersey, who is blown up on page six," HERO creator-scripter **David Michelinie** explains. "But instead of going to Heaven or Hell, he goes to this fantasy world called Peregrine-Magi!"

But before Cody can even figure out where he is—not to mention why he isn't dead—he finds himself pressed into service in a desperate struggle against a mysterious menace. "Basically, all Cody wants to do is go home. He doesn't want to help anybody; he doesn't want to get involved," David says. "But he finds that he has this battle-pike called Devilthorn which only he can wield, and it seems to do stuff that's impossible! And he keeps asking, 'What's going on? Why am I here? Why didn't I die?' And everyone keeps saying, 'Oh, we'll tell you right after you finish fighting these guys.' This keeps going on until the end of the third issue, when they finally get the main bad guys on this world, and they defeat them. But then, Cody is killed and he fades out! And the other characters kind of look at each other and say, 'Boy is he going to be mad.' And in the fourth issue, Cody wakes up on this 1940s, pulp-era science-fiction world!"

Before the end of the series, Cody will find himself in a wide variety of alien dimensions, fighting an even wider variety of foes! "The aliens who live in the dimensions are everything from giant dragon monsters to little frog men," says managing editor **Kelly Corvese.** "But really, Cody's main battle is with his own conscience. You're learning what it means to be a hero from the inside — dealing with a person's feelings and his having to give things up. Cody's giving up his life—several times!"

In fact, it's taken a pretty heroic effort just to get HERO out to you! David first started work on the series back in 1984, but the book was delayed several times because of a series of editorial and artist changes. Finally, **Steve Purcell** was chosen to pencil the series, and David couldn't have been happier. "I like Steve's work very much. He's very imaginative, and his art has a terrific feel!" But after Steve finished penciling issue #4, still further delays plagued the book. And by the time things were under way again, Steve felt that his art style had changed so much that his current style wouldn't fit in! So once again, the search for an artist was on, and when the dust cleared, the winner was **Richard Howell!** "I felt some trepidation when Steve left," David recalls, "but then I saw Richard's pencils and I was delighted! His art had the same imagination that Steve's had in the early issues."

Imagination plays a major role in HERO. But while the six-issue series is loaded with adventure and mystery, David feels that, most of all, "the series deals with what it takes to be a hero.

"Cody and the other characters all have heroism to a certain extent, but there's a point you can't go beyond because you just don't have it in you unless you're a true hero. And of course, Cody Pace is the antithesis of true heroism. . .

". . . So what happens when the whole fate of the universe is placed on his shoulders?"

—Shelly Fisch

CAMP CANDY © 1990 DIC Enterprises and SABAM Productions.

"I could probably use a few weeks of summer camp today," said writer **Angelo DeCesare**. And if you feel the same way, CAMP CANDY is now here to fill that desire.

This new comic, written by Angelo, drawn by **Howard Post** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**, is based on the smash hit saturday morning cartoon by the same name. The series stars a rather huggable animated **John Candy** as camp counselor for a group of very individual and somewhat difficult children.

"Since I write the book, I also watch the television show for reference, even though the stories in the comic are not adaptations, but new adventures," said Angelo. "I get a feel for the characters that way. I think they are good characters. Kids can relate to them, and it's obvious that some time and care were put into their development. John Candy's qualities as a comedian also come across in the show. He's a well-meaning, loveable guy—sort of his UNCLE BUCK character."

The fact is that Candy has had a great deal of involvement in both the comic and the television show, helping to create the premise for both: The animated (and comic book) John is a school teacher during the year who has always dreamed of having a summer camp. Now that he has one, he is dedicated to making it a go. But that's no easy task, what with his lack of business sense, his lack of camping know-how and his fear of anything that lives in the woods. What John does have going for him is his love for his campers. He'd do anything for them, and the kids know it.

"John comes across the way he does in life—a big kid himself," said Angelo. "He has a special empathy with children."

Speaking of the kids, they're a varied lot, because Camp Candy takes kids that no other camp will take, or who simply hate summer camp.

In the Boys' Cabin we have: **Iggy**—a pint-sized **Woody Allen** who is somewhat of a hypochondriac; **Binky**—Iggy's four-year-old kid brother; and **Rick**—A real practical joker whose main target is John, of course.

In the Girls' Cabin we have: **Robin**—a health food addict and environmentalist who is always hiding the junk food (including John's stash of candy bars) and adopting animals that sleep on her bed while she sleeps on the floor; **Vanessa**—a spoiled, vain and totally self-absorbed little girl who despises animals and wishes shopping was a camp activity and **Alex**—the classic tomboy who is totally fearless and is a terrific athlete. And let's not forget **Nurse Molly**—the gawky, off-the-wall Camp Nurse and head girls' counselor, who also has a crush on John. She's always showing up in the most unlikely places to help John out or bring him presents. But poor John is just not interested in romance with the good nurse.

With a group like this, Camp Candy is in for its share of disasters—both natural and man-made.

Most of the man-made ones are the fault of **Rex de Forrest II** who owns the land surrounding Camp Candy and wants to tear down the camp, level the woods, and put up condos. He is aided by his dumb, but lovable, henchman, **Chester**, who can be recognized by his leather jacket and pompadour.

All of these elements make it fun for Angelo to watch the television show for character reference, come up with his own CAMP CANDY stories.

"It all makes me wish I'd gone to camp as a kid," he said. "But now I can imagine what it would have been like."

Angelo also scripts HEATHCLIFF and POLICE ACADEMY, but he says that writing CAMP CANDY is totally different. "HEATHCLIFF is almost total fantasy. POLICE ACADEMY is a funny situation based in reality. For example, I can shrink **Heathcliff**, but I can't shrink someone in POLICE ACADEMY," he explained. "CAMP CANDY is probably somewhere in between reality and total fantasy. Also, HEATHCLIFF is about a cat, POLICE ACADEMY is about adults acting like kids, but CAMP CANDY is really about kids."

And Angelo has a very clear idea of what he wants to capture for kids—those both real and imaginary. "I want to emphasize that summer camp is like a world of its own, where kids can escape and have fun adventures that don't happen in real life," he said.

The landscape itself, as drawn by Howard Post, goes along with that idea, consisting of funny trees and unrealistic terrain, giving the whole thing a **Dr. Seuss** kind of feel. And just as the good Doctor appeals to all ages, those working with the CAMP CANDY comic book think it has the same kind of audience possibilities. "I write for all levels," said Angelo. "I go out of my way to have as little violence as possible, but an adult can read this book and enjoy it. CAMP CANDY will appeal to a lot of different people."

Editor, **Sid Jacobson**, agrees. "I heard about the CAMP CANDY Saturday morning cartoon show with John Candy, and I thought it was something we should be making into a comic book because of its mass appeal," he said. "Candy himself is actually very involved with the comic book. He reviews all the stories and artwork, and we hear what he likes and doesn't like."

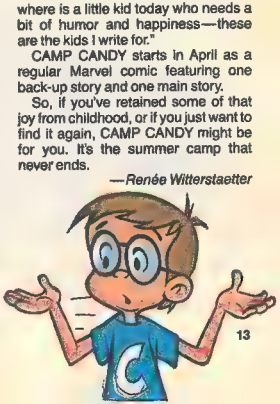
"It's a lot of fun to write John Candy as a character, too," commented Angelo. "He's an adult that retains his childishness. No matter how bad the situation, he keeps his sweet outlook and sense of humor.

"I still have a lot of the kid in me, too," he added. "When I was little, I entertained myself dreaming up these kind of adventures. And out there somewhere is a little kid today who needs a bit of humor and happiness—these are the kids I write for."

CAMP CANDY starts in April as a regular Marvel comic featuring one back-up story and one main story.

So, if you've retained some of that joy from childhood, or if you just want to find it again, CAMP CANDY might be for you. It's the summer camp that never ends.

—Renée Witterstaetter



MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Of all the heroes to emerge from Marvel's supernatural explosion of the early 1970s, the most lastingly popular was **Johnny Blaze**—the **Ghost Rider**! His 81-issue run (not even including his adventures with the **Champions** and in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT) outlasted that of TOMB OF DRACULA, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, MAN-THING, and many more fear-stars. Why? Maybe it was the unusual combination of sorcery and motorcycle action, or maybe the unique blend of superheroics and satanic curses.

Or maybe it was the way artists from **Mike Ploog** to **John Byrne** to **Jim Starlin** sent chills down our spines with their eerie renditions of the skull-headed cyclist (I still remember the first time Ghost Rider's riding leathers got ripped, and we saw there was no body inside, just a flaming skeleton—brrrr . . .)

—Brian Nelson

1. Ghost Rider spent many of his last exploits among the good (and not-so-good) people of:
A) the **Quentin** Carnival
B) **Haly Brothers** Circus
C) **Hill's** Circus
D) Circus of the Network Stars

2. Which Marvel super hero did NOT guest-star in GHOST RIDER?
A) **Daredevil**
B) **Paladin**
C) **Son of Satan**
D) **Arabian Knight**

3. Johnny Blaze lost his world stunt-riding title to:
A) **Flagg Fargo**
B) **Wolf of Team America**
C) the **Stunt-Master**
D) **May Parker**

4. Which woman was not romantically associated with Johnny Blaze?
A) **Gina Langtree**
B) **Roxanne Simpson**
C) **Lissa Russell**
D) **Cynthia Randolph**

5. Besides the Champions, Ghost Rider could also claim membership in:
A) the **Invaders**
B) the **Lethal Legion**
C) the **Legion of Monsters**
D) the **Gehenna Highway Patrol**

6. Ghost Rider's gallery of foes included:
A) **Ikthalon**
B) **Hannibal King**
C) the **Water Wizard**
D) the Nevada Traffic Commission

7. Which demonic nemesis of Ghost Rider named itself after a Las Vegas casino game?
A) **Roulette**
B) **Blackjack**
C) **One-Armed Bandit**
D) **Seven Card Stud**

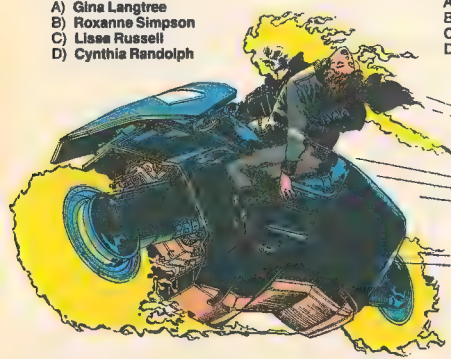
8. How did Ghost Rider defeat the **Hulk**?
A) cycling fast enough around him to create an asphyxiating updraft
B) using his hellfire to change the Hulk back to **Bruce Banner**
C) igniting a tanker carrying poisonous gas
D) threatening to kiss him

9. Ghost Rider once dueled the GHOST of which Marvel hero?
A) the **Black Knight**
B) the **Ancient One**
C) the **Phantom Eagle**
D) **Casper**

10. The **Orb**, Ghost Rider's most persistent mortal foe, first appeared in:
A) MARVEL TEAM-UP
B) MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE
C) CHAMPIONS
D) OPTOMETRY ILLUSTRATED

11. Ghost Rider's "inspiration," **Night Rider**, teamed with him against the threat of:
A) **Moondark**
B) the **Apparition**
C) **Centurious**
D) copyright infringement lawsuits

12. Night Rider was also known as:
A) Ghost Rider
B) **Phantom Rider**
C) **Carter Slade**
D) all of the above



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes,

This is it! The month you've been waiting for! The month when the most eagerly anticipated TV movie of all is scheduled to air! Yea, O True Believer, I say thee most verily, from this moment on, February may forever be known in the hearts and minds of the pantin' public as—The Month of The **Hulk!**

Naturally, we've all seen our jolly green giant on the tube before, so you're probably muttering to yourselves, "What's so special about this new Hulk show?" Even though it pains me to think of any majestic Marvelite muttering in public, it is my sworn and sacred duty to set thy slightest fears and doubts to rest. Therefore, let me tell thee why this Hulk show, above and beyond all previous Hulk shows, is truly a new plateau in the history of literature, myth, and legend!

Actually, the title alone says it all. On Sunday, February 18th, in the year of our Lord 1990, as you soberly scan the television listings in your daily paper, lo and behold, your awe-stricken eyes will see the six most momentous words of the season—the title of the latest Hulk spectacular—a title calculated to send shivers down the spine of even the most stalwart and stoical amongst you! Prepare ye, then, for what is not a dream, not an imaginary story, but an absolutely accurate description of the tale to come—"The Death of the Incredible Hulk!"

Now I, who pride myself upon being the very essence of accuracy and integrity, must tender a confession to you. I'm really not certain whether the title will be six words or five. There is always the shocking possibility that NBC-TV will list the show as "The Death of the Hulk," callously omitting the word "incredible."

But, however it may be listed, I promise you this. It is two hours of spellbinding wonderment not to be missed.

Remember the last two Hulk TV movies? The first co-starred **The Mighty Thor** and the following one featured **Daredevil**, everybody's favorite Man Without Fear. Well, those of you who saw the one where our rambunctious rampager teamed up with the Thunder God are certainly aware that the network, in its infinite wisdom, gave us its own version of Thor—a version which was remarkably different from the one that appears on Marvel's pandemonious pages. As for ol' Hornhead, while he was depicted somewhat more accurately, whoever designed his nowhere costume should be stranded on a desert island with nothing to read but DC mags until he begs for mercy!

However, "The Death of the Incredible Hulk" is different! I promise you this—it features no other super hero guest star. It's Hulk, all Hulk, nothing but the Hulk, so help us **Odin**. It's written and enacted in the mighty Marvel manner and, to answer the one overriding question which I know is bugging you all, YES, the Hulk really does die at the end!!

And, speaking of the ending, it's probably the most dramatic conclusion to any show that you will see this decade! In fact, actor/director **Bill Bixby**, who plays **David Banner**, (as if you didn't know!) was telling me recently that some of the people on the set during the filming of the show actually found themselves wiping their eyes when the final scene ended.

Now, if you'll permit me a personal note or two, I just have to tell you about two of the nicest and most talented guys you'll ever meet in show biz. I'm referring, of course, to the brilliant Bill Bixby who is not only one of the finest, most compelling actors ever to come down the pike, but also one of the most popular and gifted directors on the scene today. Watching him dealing with the camera crew, the stunt people, the other actors, and the production staff on the set is like being at a party. Bill makes the most demanding jobs seem effortless and entertaining. His personality and enthusiasm are greatly responsible for the overwhelming success and ratings of our green goliath's on-screen triumphs.

But I must also mention another truly talented and thoroughly terrific guy. **Lou Ferrigno**, the handsome (in real life) powerhouse who plays The Hulk, is probably one of the nicest and gentlest guys you'll ever meet. You and I might be nice guys too, but I'll bet if we had the physique of a Ferrigno it would be mighty tempting to throw our weight around every so often, just for kicks. But not that big guy. Lou is easily the most easy-going, most cooperative actor on the set. And I'll tell you something else. My friend Ferrigno can really act, too. As the series progresses, you'll be seeing him do far more than just roar and flex his muscles. So far as power, character and decency are concerned, Lou Ferrigno is a real-life super hero in my book.

Now then, I may not be **Professor X**, but I'll bet I know what you're thinking. How can the series progress when we kill the Hulk off in this episode? Okay, here's a little secret. He *does* die in this one, but—the *next* show will be entitled "The Revenge of The Incredible Hulk!" That'll give you something to mull over for a while!

And while you're mulling, never let it be said that I forgot to tell you "Fist Justitie, Rust Caelum!" I know you'd never forgive me if I did!

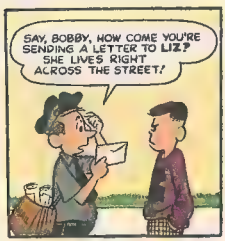
Excelsior!

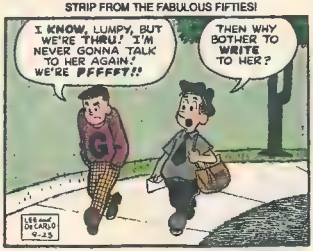
Stan Lee

WILLIE LUMPKIN

STAN AND DAN'S CLASSIC COMIC STRIP FROM THE FABULOUS FIFTIES!

© 1990 by Stan Lee & Don DeCarlo





Li'l Blazer

by Fred Hembeck

the ADVENTURES of JOHNNY BLAZE LONG before A DEMON SADDLED HIM WITH THE CURSE of GHOST RIDER!

Waukegan, Illinois--home of, among others, young JOHNNY BLAZE...

Here's that SPEECH my dad wrote for Crash, Roxanne.

Gee, thanks, Johnny. My pop's a whole lot BETTER at running a MOTORCYCLE SHOW than he is TALKING in front of the CITY COUNCIL.

I helped out TOO, Roxy!

Oh Johnny, you're WONDERFUL!

YOU'RE not so bad yourself...

Well, well, well, what have we HERE?

Looks to me like LOVE IN BLOOM!

Johnny, it's those TOUGH GUYS from JACK BENNY HIGH!

Don't worry, Roxanne, I'LL protect you.

JB

And just WHAT'S so IMPORTANT to these BRATS from Crash Simpson's Daredevil Cycle Show, Don?

HEY! GIVE THAT BACK!

Looks like a speech extolling the virtues of motorcycle helmets, Dennis. Imagine THAT--these people worried about the CONDITION of their HEADS!

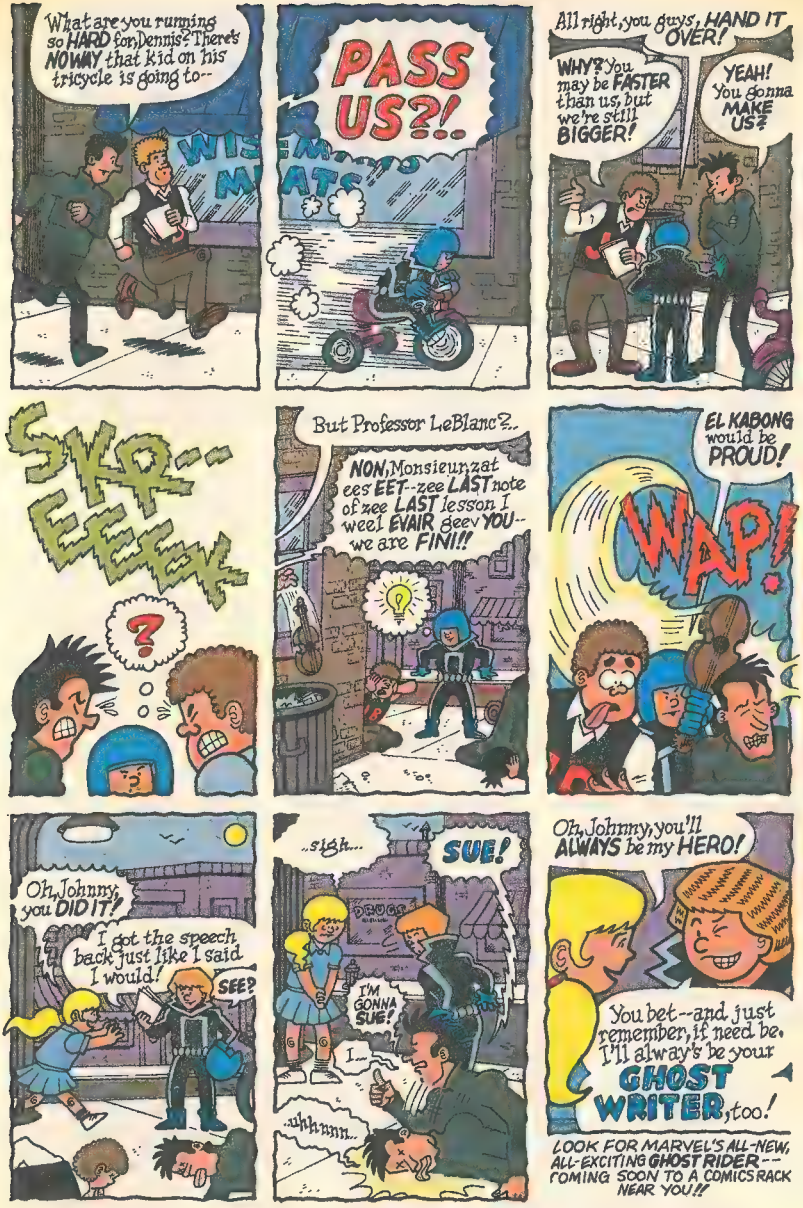
I think the City Council should have a look at this as SOON as POSSIBLE, don't you, Don?

JOHNNY?!

Oh, SOONER!

JB

Don't worry, Roxy, they WON'T get far.


What are you running so HARD for, Dennis? There's NO WAY that kid on his tricycle is going to--
PASS US?!
All right, you guys, HAND IT OVER!
WHY? You may be FASTER than us, but we're still BIGGER!
YEAH! You gonna MAKE US?
SKR-- EEEEK
?
But Professor LeBlanc?..
NON, Monsieur, zat ees EET--zee LAST note of zee LAST lesson I weel EVAIR geev YOU-- we are FINI!!
EL KABONG would be PROUD!
WAP!
Oh, Johnny, you DID IT!
I got the speech back just like I said I would!
SEE?
..sigh...
SUE!
I'M GONNA SUE!
I...
..uhhmm..
Oh, Johnny, you'll ALWAYS be my HERO!
You bet--and just remember, if need be, I'll alway's be your GHOST WRITER, too!

LOOK FOR MARVEL'S ALL-NEW, ALL-EXCITING GHOST RIDER--- COMING SOON TO A COMICS RACK NEAR YOU!!

HEROES FOR THE '90's "SAY WHAT?!" SWEEPSTAKES

In 1989, we launched six new series in the first six months of the year. Those titles turned out to be so successful that in 1990, we decided to do it again! So in the first six months of 1990, you can look forward to six new titanic titles from the House of Ideas!

And what, you may ask, will the new titles be? (Go ahead, ask! We won't bite.) Calm thyself, Frantic One, and all will be revealed. First up is that cyborg cop of tomorrow—ROBOCOP. Next is the return of the Avenging Son, NAMOR, the Sub-Mariner. After that the supernatural cyclist, GHOST RIDER, zooms back onto the scene. Following that are those futuristic defenders of freedom, the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. Next come the hottest new heroes in town, THE NEW WARRIORS. And finally we have everybody's friendly neighborhood wall-crawler, SPIDER-MAN!

But you know Mighty Marvel—we couldn't just launch these six great titles without doing something extra special. Since nobody loves a good time more than we do, we've decided to offer a special sweepstakes to welcome these new books into the Marvel Universe.

We call it the "Say What?!" Sweepstakes. And here's how it works. Your participating comics shop will be displaying a series of lobby cards over the next six months. Each lobby card contains a page of artwork from one of our six new series for 1990. But the page will have only pictures—no words!

That's where you come in! When your store hands out the bag-stuffer entry form for that title, you can enter the sweepstakes by filling in the missing dialogue and placing your entry in the store-supplied entry box. At last—your chance to put words in the mouths of your favorite Marvel heroes!

You can enter once per title! That gives you six chances of winning in your store! Who else but Mighty Marvel would give you six different ways to win?

But if you think the sweepstakes is neat, wait till you hear about the prizes! Six lucky participants have the chance to win the following:

–Autographed copies of all six premiere issues of the Heroes for the '90's titles!

–Winners will be announced at the start of the Mutant Wars in X-MEN #271, and then you'll be featured in a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE interview! (Surely the highest honor a Marvelite can receive!)

–And best of all is the grand prize—a free dinner with the creative team of one of the Heroes of the 90's titles!! The six creative teams will be flown out to the six winning shops for a store appearance, followed by dinner with the winning entry.

Participating creators include Todd McFarlane, Alan Grant, Lee Sullivan , Howard Mackie, Javier Saltares, Jim Valentino, Fabian Nicieza, and Mark Bagley.

Remember, six potential winners will be chosen at random from six different comic shops in the U.S., U.K., and Canada. There will be one winning entry for each title, so not only do you get a chance to win, but your comic shop does, too!

It looks like Marvel is getting the 90's off to a great start. Six new titles. Six ways to win. Face it, True Believers, either way you can't lose!

SO LOOK FOR THE SECOND LOBBY CARD—GHOST RIDER—FOLLOWED BY FIVE MORE EXCITING CHANCES TO ENTER THE MARVEL HEROES FOR THE '90's "SAY WHAT?!" SWEEPSTAKES!!

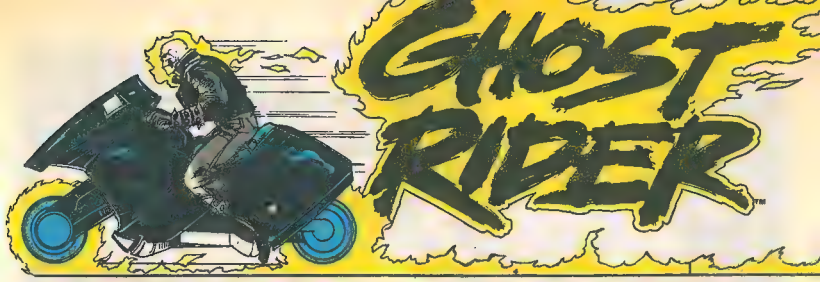
OFFICIAL RULES—NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

1. To enter the Heroes for the 90's Say What Sweepstakes, hand-print your name, address and age (if under 18, indicate parent or legal guardian's name) on the official entry form and place your entry in the receptacle provided by your participating comic book specialty shop or hand-print your name, address, entry captions, title of series and the words. Heroes for the 90's Say What Sweepstakes on a plain 3" x 5" piece of paper and mail to your participating comic book specialty shop. Each entry must be sent separately. All entries must be received by the date determined by your participating store. 2. Winners will be determined by random drawing from among all entries received. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. 3. Only one prize to individual or household. Prizes are non-transferable, substitution of prizes not permitted, no cash in lieu of prizes. Any prize won by a minor will be awarded in the name of the parent or legal guardian. 4. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its parent, their affiliates and subsidiaries make no warranties, express or implied as to any matter whatsoever concerning the prizes, including, without limitation, the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. 5. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its parent, their directors, offices, employees and agents shall have no responsibility for any damage, direct or otherwise, with respect to, or arising from any prize and shall bear no responsibility for any prize stolen or lost after awarded. 6. For a list of winners, mail request to: Fabian Nicieza, Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. No responsibility for lost or misdirected mail. Mutilated or illegible entries will be disqualified. 7. Sweepstakes open to all residents of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Employees, IRS-listed dependants and immediate family members of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, and participating comic book shops are not eligible. 8. Void where prohibited by law. All Federal, State, and local laws of the U.S. and all laws of Canada and the U.K. apply. All taxes are sole responsibility of individual winners. By entry into Sweepstakes, winners consent to full commercial use of their names and photographs without further compensation. Winners will be required to execute an affidavit of eligibility and release. 9. Prize description. Six winners will receive autographed copies of all six premiere issues of the Heroes for the 90's comic books, inclusion of the winners in an X-MEN letter column and a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE article and dinner with the creative team, from one of the six Heroes for the 90's titles. Retail price for the comics awarded totals $7.50.

GHOST RIDER INTRODUCTION

Johnny Blaze was an ordinary mortal possessed by a demonic spirit of vengeance. He became the **Ghost Rider**, one of Marvel's most popular supernatural super heroes from the early seventies to the early eighties. At the end of his series, **Johnny Blaze** was freed from his curse.

Now the time has come for the Ghost Rider to ride again! This time, young **Danny Katch** is the helpless mortal chosen to be the living embodiment of revenge! On the next five pages, we present an exclusive preview of the new GHOST RIDER series. So hold on to your seats, fright fans! Ghost Rider is back, and this time, nothing can stop him!



The streets of Brooklyn, New York. Full of grit and sweat. Full of secrets. Enter **Danny Ketch.** While he may not be a household name yet, Danny has a *big* secret. You see, Danny Ketch is the new **Ghost Rider.** That's right, GHOST RIDER is back, and he's looking *hot!*

"It seems that the time is right for GHOST RIDER's return" said editor **Bobbie Chase.** "He's a very interesting character, and writer **Howard Mackie** is putting a lot of his own experiences into the book." Not that Howard is possessed by a demon and walks around with a blazing skull atop his shoulders. Well, not *any more.* Howard is however, an old time Brooklynite and his knowledge of the area gives the new GHOST RIDER an air of authenticity. Danny Ketch's stomping grounds will have the sounds, smells, and look of our world. Very urban, very grim, visually distinct from most other books. Which brings us to **Javier Saltares,** GHOST RIDER's penciler.

After seeing what Howard had in mind for the new GHOST RIDER series, Bobbie Chase immediately approached Javier to take on the task of visualizing GHOST RIDER's world. "Javier's pencils are *hot!*" raved Bobbie. "Other Marvel artists come into my office and ask to look at the GHOST RIDER pages for inspiration." Black leather and polished chrome are essential parts of GHOST RIDER's look, as well as a gritty, shadow-filled atmosphere. Javier comes up with the goods on all points. As Ghost Rider, Danny Ketch deals justice from a truly wild looking motorcycle designed by Javier. "This series is forcing me to be even more creative than ever," stated Javier, perhaps best known for his superlative work on the WONDER MAN series in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. "In the past I've dealt with previously established characters; but with GHOST RIDER, everything is new. My penciling is much less technical now, I'm dealing more with creating a mood. It's a heavy responsibility to create the look of a book and its cast from scratch." Javier is aided and abetted by inker **Mark Texeira** who adds that extra punch to Javier's pencils. "Mark's like a great lighting man in a film" said Javier. "He's a total artist and puts so much more into GHOST RIDER than I might ever have thought of."

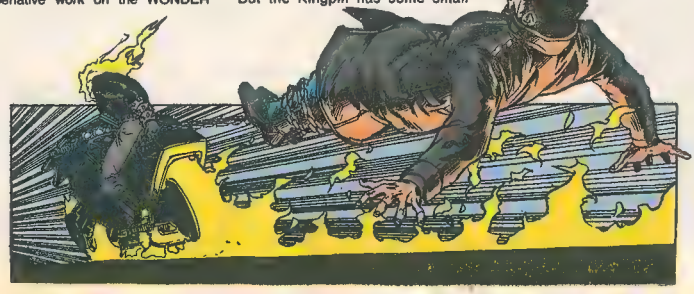
Now the scene is set: moody, urban stories; wild artwork . . . but, what's it all about? Well . . . as we've said, this is the *new* GHOST RIDER. Danny Ketch has nothing to do with **Johnny Blaze,** the last incarnation of Ghost Rider. Danny is possessed by a different demon than Johnny, and lives a markedly different lifestyle. Danny isn't alone in this world, either. When he's not busy riding around with a blazing skull, Danny spends as much time as he can with his girlfriend **Stacy** (a policeman's daughter), and his best friend **Jack.** They're an integral part of both Danny's life and the "feel" of the series. Oh, yes. He also deals with villains. Nasty ones.

Ghost Rider starts off with a bang as he comes face to skull with both the **Kingpin** *and* the **Punisher!** As the series progresses, it's anyone's guess as to who else might surface to try and make his life miserable. Although at the top of the list you'll be sure to find **Deathwatch** and **Nightwalker.**

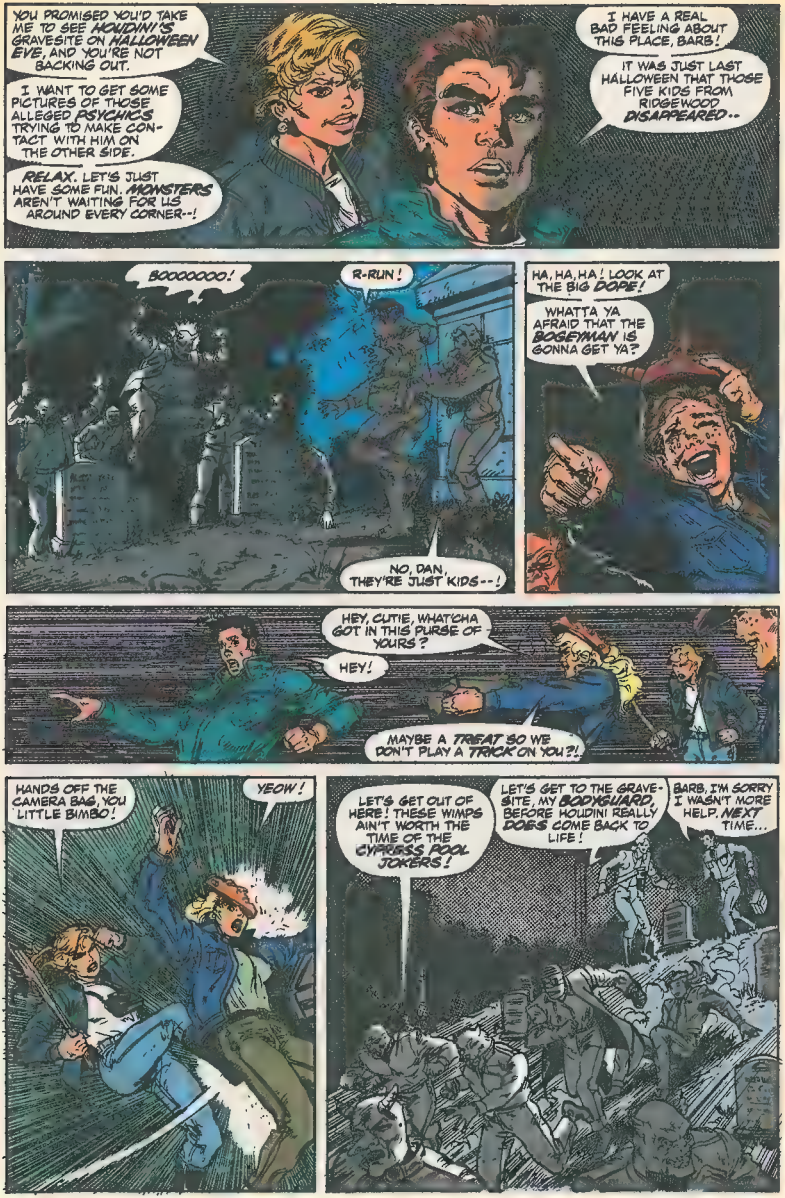
Deathwatch is truly twisted. Like the Kingpin, he's a formidable crimelord. But the Kingpin has some small vestige of honor and compassion left inside of him. Deathwatch doesn't. In fact, nothing pleases Deathwatch more than seeing people die. He "feeds" on visions of death. He has the perfect right-hand man in Nightwalker. Nightwalker is a mutant. His mutant ability is to drain all the light around him, creating darkness. In many ways, he's the opposite of **Dazzler.** Unfortunately, Nightwalker doesn't know that he's a mutant. The constant darkness has made him a bit psychotic, and he's convinced that he's a vampire. Nightwalker has gone so far as to get fangs implanted into his mouth! Talk about obsessive! Needless to say, he's extremely dangerous and promises to give Ghost Rider a run for his money! But Nightwalker is about as close to otherworldliness as *this* GHOST RIDER series is going to get.

"Howard and I want to stay away from the supernatural element of GHOST RIDER and deal more with crime fighting'" Javier stated. It seems like a good idea, as Brooklyn is not noted for its outbreaks of supernatural activity. In fact, in many ways, Brooklyn is almost a character in GHOST RIDER as well, as it so defines the tone of the book. Given time, Brooklyn might just become the hotbed of Marvel activity, as people get their monthly fix of this motorcycle riding hero and his impressive supporting cast. It's also a sure bet that Howard has a surprise guest or two up his sleeve in the months to come. So, look out, Marvel universe! GHOST RIDER is back with a vengeance, aiming to knock heads with the big boys! Skulls and 'cycles rule!

—John A. Wilcox



CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY
FOR DECADES THIS GRAVEYARD HAS SERVED AS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE BODIES OF DEPARTED SOULS
HERE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD HAVE FOUND COMFORT AND PEACE
TONIGHT ONE SPIRIT WILL BE REBORN IN FIRE AND BLOOD. TONIGHT NO PEACE WILL COME TO--
--THE GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.
BARB, I'M DEAD IF MOM FINDS OUT THAT I BROUGHT YOU IN HERE TONIGHT!
CHILL OUT, DAN. I'M NOT GOING TO TELL HER ANYWAY THE MANIAC WILL PROBABLY DISEMBOWEL US LONG BEFORE MOM CAN GROUND US!
DON'T EVEN KID AROUND LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW THE REPUTATION THIS PLACE HAS... MURDERS, CHILD ABDUCTIONS, AND THE WEIRD RELIGIOUS CULTS THAT HAVE SACRIFICED DOGS, CATS AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IN HERE!
YOU'VE BEEN READING TOO MUCH STEPHEN KING, LITTLE BROTHER!


YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE ME TO SEE HOUDINI'S GRAVESITE ON HALLOWEEN EVE, AND YOU'RE NOT BACKING OUT.
I WANT TO GET SOME PICTURES OF THOSE ALLEGED PSYCHICS TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE.
RELAX. LET'S JUST HAVE SOME FUN. MONSTERS AREN'T WAITING FOR US AROUND EVERY CORNER--!
I HAVE A REAL BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE, BARB!
IT WAS JUST LAST HALLOWEEN THAT THOSE FIVE KIDS FROM RIDGEWOOD DISAPPEARED--
BOOOOOOO!
R-RUN!
NO, DAN, THEY'RE JUST KIDS--!
HA, HA, HA! LOOK AT THE BIG DOPE!
WHATTA YA AFRAID THAT THE BOGEYMAN IS GONNA GET YA?
HEY, CUTIE, WHAT'CHA GOT IN THIS PURSE OF YOURS?
HEY!
MAYBE A TREAT SO WE DON'T PLAY A TRICK ON YOU?!
HANDS OFF THE CAMERA BAG, YOU LITTLE BIMBO!
YEOW!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THESE WIMPS AIN'T WORTH THE TIME OF THE CYPRESS POOL JOKERS!
LET'S GET TO THE GRAVESITE, MY BODYGUARD, BEFORE HOUDINI REALLY DOES COME BACK TO LIFE!
BARB, I'M SORRY I WASN'T MORE HELP. NEXT TIME...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
BTOOM
AHHHH!
WHAT'S THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT AND A SCREAM!
PROBABLY JUST THOSE KIDS AGAIN--
--BUT IT COULD BE SOMETHING GOOD THAT I COULD GET ON FILM!
BARB, WAIT, IT ISN'T SAFE!
DON'T WORRY, DAN, THIS COULD BE EXCITING.
NOW SHUSH. I THINK THE NOISE CAME FROM RIGHT OVER HERE BY GALLAGHER'S JUNKYARD.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY CURIOUS ONES.
THEY'D BETTER GET OUT OF THERE, 'CAUSE FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS--
--I THINK SOMETHING PRETTY UGLY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
BACK OFF, YOU COSTUMED CLOWN! THIS CASE BELONGS TO THE KINGPIN!
SO WE'RE GONNA HAFTA BURN YOU FOR KILLING HIS COURIER.
NO OFFENSE.

SNAP
NONE TAKEN.
GLAD TO SEE YOU AIN'T GONNA PUT UP A FIGHT--
--WE DO HAVE YOU OUTNUMBERED FOUR TO ONE.
JUST STAND STILL AND WE'LL DO YOU AS QUICK AND PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.
TONY?
SNIP
BKOOM
WHAT THE--?
GURGH!
WHO... ARE... YOU?
I AM DEATHWATCH.
I AM YOUR DEATH!
KRAK

Is Barb dead? Is Danny next? And how does Ghost Rider figure in to all this? For all the answers, don't miss GHOST RIDER #1!

MARVEL REVIEWERS

It looks like a lot of you are glad to have our sensational cyclist back. We sent out black and white copies of GHOST RIDER #1 to our Mighty Marvel Reviewers, and this is what they had to say.

Our first review comes to us from **Aaron "Looney" Lewis**, of Framingham, MA, who said, "You guys have changed my point of view. The original **Ghost Rider** character (**Johnny Blaze**), I felt, was a flop, a crusader with no cause. But once I took a glance at this issue, even just at (GR's) funky new outfit, I knew this would change.

"Anyone who is a **Punisher** fan will like this comic. It holds feelings, fight scenes, and funky faces, all of the three f's I look for in a comic. The artistry gives a great mysterious setting. GR's new outfit and bike . . . make him look like a guy you don't want to deal with. A tie-in with a former super hero associate would be appreciated. With a bit of help (maybe from an **Avenger** or two), Ghost Rider could burn some comic rubber.

"So until Ghost Rider blows a tire (and even after) MAKE MINE MARVEL!" Thanks for the kind words, Aaron. Anyone with the nickname "Looney" is okay in our book! The GHOST RIDER creators assure us they will try to include the three f's in every issue of the new series.

Our next review comes from **Richard F. Wong**, of Union City, CA, who writes, "I think you've got another great comic in the works. If you can keep up the mystery and action that you've started in this first issue, and also branch off into new and startling new directions, you'll have a winner!"

Next up we have a critique from **Costas Impliklan**, of Athens, Greece, who had high praise indeed for the new GHOST RIDER. "While reading GHOST RIDER #1," Costas begins, "I received the same thrills (and chills) I had 'tasted' when I read PUNISHER #1. But let me give credit where credit is due. The artwork first.

"Saltares and Texeira have really outdone themselves this time, surpassing everything they've done in the past. Splash pages with Ghost Rider on his 'bike' can be best described as a visual 'feast,' with the right amount of shadows and superb textures.

"The script is also very good, with just the right touch of the supernatural and the needed amount of urban life and feeling. The Ghost Rider's costume is simply smashing and terribly good-looking (quite menacing, also!). I myself love leather—can't afford it though."

Costas concluded, "I have to say that you people have a chance of making comics history. Please don't pass it up." Well, Costas, we can't promise that our GHOST RIDER crew will make comics history, but it certainly won't be for lack of trying.

Our next review comes from **Lewis Martin**, of Dilwyn, VA. Lewis kept his comments short and to the point. Take it away, Lewis! "I really enjoyed GHOST RIDER. The art was above average. The inking was well done. The story was fine. I particularly enjoyed the motorcycle segments. It was action-packed with a good story. To me, that's a great combination. If this is an indication of things to come, I want to see more. A topnotch job."

Thanks, Lewis! (Say, they don't call you "Looney" too, do they?) Our final Reviewer of the month is Lucas Smith of Chatham, N.J., who may not believe in complete sentences, but he knows what he likes. This is what Lucas had to say.

"Combines great art with intelligent writing. Dynamic action scenes and awesome fights. Suspenseful storyline, leaves you on the edge of your seat. Took a complex character like the Ghost Rider and greatly simplified him.

"I know I'm going to collect this comic. I highly recommend it. This comic is too action-packed for ten-year-olds to handle. Keep this comic out of your little brother's hands. Savor it for yourself."

Well, it seems as if all of our Reviewers this month were impressed with the art of Javier Saltares and Mark Texeira, as well as the mysterious setting and turbo-charged action created by **Howard Mackie**. GR's "funky" new suit also scored high marks. Those of you who look for "the three f's" in your comic books just might want to check out the new GHOST RIDER book.

But if you're under ten, you'd better check with your older brothers first!

(Remember, if you want to become a Marvel Reviewer, simply send your name and address on a post card to "MARVEL REVIEWERS," c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 10016.)

MARVEL AGE OF COMICS

1981
PART TWO

1981 was Marvel's twentieth anniversary, and last month we looked at some of our top books that celebrated their own anniversaries that year. Also observing special issues were DR. STRANGE, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and MARVEL SUPER-HEROES!

The Sorcerer Supreme faced some of his deadliest enemies in '81, opening with a battle against the **N'Garai** and following with mystic combat in the cave of the mysterious **Sibylla. Doc** and **Clea** enjoyed "A Moment's Peace" in a beautiful short story by **Roger Stern** and **Michael Golden.**

But as **Marshall Rogers** assumed the art chores, more trouble came to **Stephen**'s life: a joust with **Ikonn**, Lord of Illusions, and a time-twisting duel with **Baron Mordo** and his sorcerous ancestors. **Morganna Blessing** made her debut, and **Doc**'s guest stars included **Brother Voodoo** and the 1943 **Sgt. Nick Fury** and **Pam Hawley**!

Guest stars were the stuff of life in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE: the **Thing**'s 1981 guest list included **Mr. Fantastic** and the **Inhumans** (vs. the minions of **Maelstrom**), **Wonder Man** (vs.**Xemnu the Titan**), **Sub-Mariner** (vs. **Modok**), **Iceman and Giant Man**(vs. the **Circus of Crime**). The anniversary Ish was #75, a double-sized bout in which the **Avengers** aided **Ben** against **Annihilus** and **Blastaar.**

Ben's stranger exploits included a Christmas tale in which he and the **Puppet Master** fought toys animated by the mind of **Modred**; a trip with **Quasar** into a dimension ruled by dinosaurs; and a crash-landing in the Man-Thing's swamps where a fever-ridden **Ben Grimm** relived his WWII battles alongside Nick Fury! The **Blue Diamond** fought with the Thing against **Shanga the Star-Dancer**, only to leave the planet with her; Ben struggled to reach the human side of the **Ghost Rider**; and **Captain America** helped Ben overcome the effects of Virus X. And in the MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL, **American Eagle** enjoyed his Marvel premiere, accompanied by **Wyatt Wingfoot, Klaw,** and **Ka-Zar!**

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES released its 100th issue in 1981, carrying on its tradition of reprinting the most exciting exploits of the incredible **Hulk.** Marvel had an extensive reprint line in the late 1970s, but much of it was finally canceled in '81. AMAZING ADVENTURES with its reprints of the original **X-Men**, FANTASY MASTERPIECES with early **Warlock** and **Silver Surfer** stories, MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS with old FF sagas, TALES TO ASTONISH with 1960s Sub-Mariner chapters, and MARVEL SUPER ACTION with flashbacks of the Avengers.

SGT. FURY had also continued as a reprint book for several years, but even Nick's guest appearances in DR. STRANGE and MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE couldn't save this book from cancellation. But along with MARVEL SUPER-HEROES, the ever-reliable MARVEL TALES still sold strongly, presenting the best **Spider-Man** adventures of yesteryear, and even including early Dr. Strange exploits as a bonus.

Spider-Man adventures were certainly in plentiful supply in 1981—perhaps since he returned that autumn to Saturday morning TV! SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS was a Marvel comics one-shot showcasing the NBC version of the web-slinger, in battle with the **Green Goblin** alongside friends Iceman and the new creation, **Firestar.**

In addition, PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN enjoyed a steady run (which we covered last month), while easy reading adventures of Web-Head continued in SPIDEY SUPER STORIES—celebrating its 50th issue in 1981. And the MARVEL TREASURY EDITION tabloid concluded its own with a Spider-Man reprint anthology and, in its last issue, a Marvel/DC collaboration: **Superman** and Spider-Man together again! In a **Jim Shooter/John Buscema** tale, comics' flagship characters defeated **Dr. Doom,** and the **Parasite.**

Spidey battled alongside a host of Marvel greats as always in his own mag, MARVEL TEAM-UP. On the wall-

crawler's side were **Quasar**, **Falcon**, **Thor**, **Valkyrie**, **Wolverine**, **Professor X**, **Gargoyle**, **Dominic Fortune**, the **Human Torch**, the **Frog-Man**, **Man-Thing**, **Daredevil**, and the **Beast**! And in the opposite corner were **Lightmaster**, **Stone-Face**, the **Mind-Bender**, **Professor Power**, **Mentallo** and the **Fixer**, **Turner D. Century**, the **Speed Demon**, **Ian Fate**, and **Solarr**! And if that weren't enough, the MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL presaged the events of last year's Marvel Annuals, as the servants of the Serpent Crown wreaked havoc against Spidey, Thor, the **Scarlet Witch**, Quasar, and Dr. Strange!

It's a wonder Spidey had any energy left for his original book! But in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, writer **Denny O'Neil** introduced **Hydro-Man**, and teamed him up issues later with the **Sandman**—and when the two of them merged to create a maddened mud-beast, it was really mud in Spidey's eye! Sub-Mariner swam in to assist against, a new **Frightful Four** (composed of the **Wizard**, the **Trapster**, Sandman, and **Llyra**), and **Madame Web** returned to help Spider-Man capture a sniper at the New York City Marathon.

A prison adventure brought **Peter** into play against the **Grey Gargoyle**, while Peter's country singer pal, **Lonesome Pinky**, barely escaped death at the hands of **Ramrod**. And though **Moon Knight** lent Spider-Man a hand against organized crime, Peter was on his own against Speed Demon and the **Red Ghost's Super Apes**. But the **Punisher** could be counted on when **Dr. Octopus** returned to town, in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL by O'Neil, **Frank Miller**, and **Klaus Janson**.

But was the Annual the year's spider-highlight, or was it the **Aunt May** solo story in ish #220, when May single-handedly faked a heart attack in order to foil robbers at a nursing home? A tough choice, no? Well, maybe not if you qualify for Social Security benefits, I guess. . .

Next month we'll look at 1981's new series stars—a singer, a savage, and a seven-year-old! Who could they be? Find out next month!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL® COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say you have your own anniversary to celebrate: a wedding anniversary, a four-months-without-chocolate anniversary, a ten-years-of-collecting-comics anniversary! Now, we're not going to suggest that Marvel back issues are the PERFECT anniversary present—but should the idea cross YOUR mind, here's what you can expect to pay for these issues at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #19. But remember, this is only a guide: actual prices may vary, and should be less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION Good	Fine	Mint
■ **AMAZING ADVENTURES (Vol. 2)**			
14	.25	.75	1.50
■ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**			
212-223	.25	.75	1.50
■ **ANNUAL 15 (Miller art; Punisher)**	1.15	3.50	7.00
■ **DR. STRANGE**			
45-50	.30	.90	1.80
■ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES (Vol. 2)**			
14		.60	1.20
■ **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS**			
96		.50	1.00
■ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES**			
93-104		.50	1.00
■ **MARVEL TALES**			
123-134		.40	.80
■ **MARVEL TEAM-UP**			
101-112		.40	.80
ANNUAL 4	.25	.75	1.50
■ **MARVEL TREASURY EDITION**			
27, 28		.50	1.00
■ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE**			
71-82		.40	.80
ANNUAL 6	.25	.75	1.50
■ **SGT. FURY**			
162-167	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS**	.25	.75	1.50
1	.25	.75	1.50
■ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES**			
50-55		.25	.50
■ **TALES TO ASTONISH (Vol. 2)**			
14		.25	.50

NEW TALENT DEPT.: Bosco Ng

Welcome to our first installment of 'New Talent Department' in several years. For those of you who came in late, here's how it works. Once a month, we pick an up-and-coming young amateur artist and feature his work here in these pages. We then have an established industry pro, either an artist or an editor, analyze the newcomer's work and offer constructive criticism.

This month, we showcase the pencils of **Bosco Ng**, who hails from San Francisco, CA. Bosco has sent us several pages of samples over the last few months, and a lot of us here in the Bullpen were really impressed with what we saw.

As always, the best way for any artist to break into the business is to draw several pages of continuity, to show us what he or she can do. Draw your samples on 11" by 17" paper. (That's the size the pros use!) And always send copies; never send originals. If you would like to be featured in 'New Talent Department,' send your samples to:

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT
c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE
387 Park Ave. South
New York, NY 10016

Now that we've got the formalities out of the way, let's get down to the business at hand. We wanted an inside perspective on Bosco Ng's work, so we went to Marvel's art director (and legendary AMAZING SPIDER-MAN artist) **John Romita, Sr.** Here's what John had to say.

"Like a lot of young artists, Bosco is 'finish technique' oriented. He needs to work out foreground/background clarity (that is, how background shapes play against figures).

"He should work on things like perspective. In the panel where Wolverine is hit in the chest with a bat, the guy should be in front of Wolverine, but it looks like he's behind him. Also, Wolverine is supposed to be 5'3", but in that panel, it looks like he's a giant. Bosco needs to work on proportions and comparative sizes.

"It's a good fight sequence—it's well-choreographed—but sometimes it's not clear what's happening. The exposition of characters isn't always clear. It may be a little too close up.

There should have been at least one long shot, to establish where all the characters are.

"I also find the behavior of Wolverine to be a little uncharacteristic. He stands there for three panels and lets guys beat him with bats. After he first gets the cigarette knocked out of his mouth, he should be hacking these guys to pieces. He probably should also shred one of the bats with his claws.

"These are things that, as time goes on, a young artist learns. The third panel on page two is also unclear. But overall, there's a lot of spirit and a lot of dynamics to Bosco's work. He has a lot of potential."

Our advice to Bosco would be to keep working on that potential. He should work up some more samples, and try again in a few months. Remember, here at Marvel, we're always on the lookout for new talent; you never know when the next **Jack Kirby** or **John Byrne** is going to come along. So if you're serious about being a comics artist, why not send in some samples. What have you got to lose?

HONEY, I'M HOME!

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Attention correspondents:
All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will gladly withhold that info by request!

This month's decidedly domestic letter column title comes to us courtesy of Jimmy Stanis of Warren, MI. Thanks, Jimmy! And while we're settling down with our pipe and slippers to read this month's mail, let's just remind everyone out there that we still need a spiffy, new title for this column every month. So grab yourselves some cookies and cocoa and get cracking! If we use one of your ideas, we'll even thank you right here in black and white. And that's sure better than colorizing the darned thing, now isn't it?

Yo, AGE Makers,

I am just starting out with comics collecting and I have some questions:

1) How does the **Punisher** get all his weapons?

2) How come **Spidey, Iron Man,** the **Hulk, Thor**—oh, and I can't forget **Captain America**—gave up their new looks?

3) Is the PUNISHER movie gonna come to Canada?

4) How did **Wolverine** get his claws?

5) Who is the **Punisher**'s main bad guy?

6) How did **Spidey** get his new powers?

7) Why doesn't **Hawkeye** have his own comic book?

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Riverview, N.B.
E1B 4K2
Canada

Lots of questions there, "M." Taking them in order:

1) Some of the Punisher's weapons are confiscated from the criminals he's run across. The more exotic stuff is custom-made for him by an electronics wizard called Microchip. And the rest of it? The close-out bin at Toys 'R' Us, of course!

2) There's quite a range of reasons, actually. On the one end, Iron Man has changed and updated his armor repeatedly over the years. And on the other, well, Spider-Man decided to ditch his new, black costume as a favor to Mary Jane. Venom had attacked MJ, and the black costume served as a painful reminder to her.

Captain America and Thor were both pretty happy to put on their old costumes again. It took a long, bitter struggle for Cap to convince the government that he deserved to wear his old, star-spangled uniform. And Thor was finally able to set aside his armor and beard when he was finally released from the curse that Hela, the goddess of death, had placed on him.

And last but not least, we figure that the Hulk just has to keep changing clothes because they have a tendency to tear now and again.

3) Honestly, that's a decision that will be made by the people producing the movie, not us, so we'll have to see what they decide. But you can keep up on the latest news about the PUNISHER movie (and the many other Marvel-related film projects) by keeping your eyes glued to the Stan's Soapbox column that appears every month in this very magazine.

4) Wow—a "Wolverine's claws" letter! We haven't gotten one in years! Ah, the nostalgia . . .

Oops, sorry, M, we got a little carried away. The claws were surgically implanted when the Canadian government was first attempting to turn Logan into Wolverine. (At the time, they were figuring that this vicious guy with the claws would become Canada's answer to Captain America. Kinda makes you wonder about the Canadian government, doesn't it?)

5) Hard to say. He keeps killing them, you see.

6) Ah, thereby hangs a tale. And if you rush out right now, you can find it in the pages of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #158. Who says this isn't the Mighty Marvel Age of Unabashed Plugs?

7) Well, it may not be his own

book, but you can catch the battling bowman in solo action fairly regularly in the pages of AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT. Hope that helps.

Next . . .?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I was just wondering something. This may be a bit morbid, but I have a couple of questions for you:

A) Could **Wolverine** be affected by the AIDS virus? I mean, I'm no expert, but if the AIDS virus breaks down the ability to fight diseases and such, wouldn't it also affect Wolvie's ability to heal himself?

B) Just how radioactive is Spider-Man? Would he show up on a geiger counter? Could **Mary Jane** get radiation poisoning just by being. . .intimate . . .with dear Peter? Or just by being near him? I wouldn't count **Aunt May** as an example, because she's immune to everything. Hmmm. . .must be a mutant.

I don't want to upset anyone, but I'm sure somebody besides me wants to know. No matter what—Make Mine Marvel!

Tammey Reed
1144 W. 220th St.
Torrance, CA 90502

To tell you the truth, Tammey, we'd bet that a lot of people would like to know the answers to those questions. They sure started a fair amount of debate around here!

The bottom line on your Spider-Man question (according to SPIDER-MAN Assistant Editor, Dan Cuddy) is that when the radioactive spider bit Peter, it changed his entire metabolism but didn't really make his blood radioactive. So despite what you may have heard in the theme song to Spidey's 1960s cartoon show, his blood isn't radioactive. It's just. . .different.

Your Wolverine question is a little trickier, so we're going to reserve final judgment on that one. But Kelly Corvese (the managing editor responsible for Wolverine's biweekly adventures in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS) came up with a pretty good theory that we're going to stick with for the time being: It's true that AIDS attacks a person's immune system (which ordinarily fights infection and disease). But Wolvie's healing factor doesn't just stop infection; it also heals bullet wounds, burns, and so on. So the healing factor is probably centered in some other part of his metabolism. And that means that even if Wolverine's immune system was under attack by AIDS, the healing factor would be largely unaffected, so it could fight off the AIDS virus.

Oh, and don't be so sure that Aunt May's immune to everything. She almost died in an early issue of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN after her nephew gave her a transfusion of his rather unusual blood! And then there was the time she tried Mary Jane's cooking. . .

Whew! Lots of tough questions this month! We'd better just take a breather and bask in the light of this sunshiny yellow background. Good thing it's time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH!

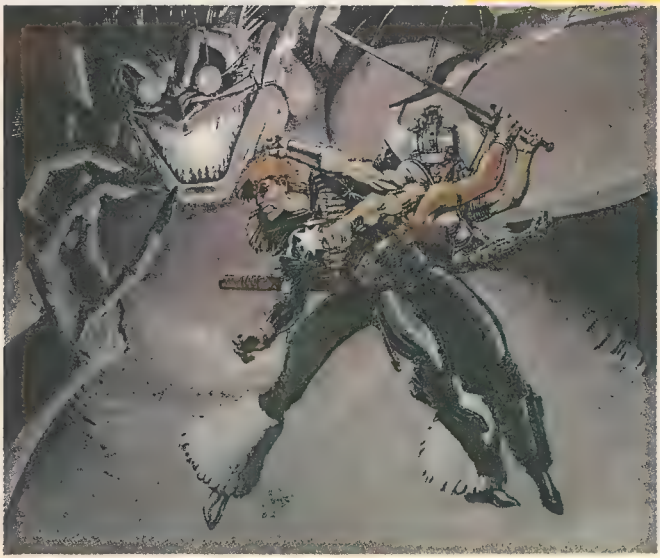
That's right—once again, we've dug deep into our voluminous sacks of mail to find a letter that we think will be of particular interest to the rampaging hordes of Marveldom. And once again, we've printed it in a special place of yellow honor.

This issue's Letter of the Month only deals tangentially with comics. But it does talk about a topic that's been on a lot of people's minds lately.

Dear Marvel,

After reading the Letter of the Month in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #83, I feel compelled to write to you about a particularly frightening time when some of your comics helped take my mind off of my current situation.

I was in the library at San Francisco State University when the earthquake hit. It was like being in the back of a pickup truck going full speed over a bad road. It felt as though two guys were having a tug of war over the build-



ing. The building would sway violently back and forth. Plaster dust started to fall from the ceiling—I can still remember the taste of it in my mouth—and the windows rattled, threatening to hurl bits of glass in all directions. Fortunately, the glass did not shatter, and no one around me (that I could see) was injured. I immediately rushed home as soon as the shaking stopped, worried because I knew that my mother would either be at home or in transit. She made it home safely a few minutes after I did and there was no damage to our house, save for a plant that tipped over.

Several hours later, power was restored and I watched as the media reported on the quake. After several hours of watching report after report, I managed to turn off the TV. I needed a diversion, something to take my mind off of the destruction and death. I pulled out some of my old comics and started to read them. Reading comics helped me escape, at least for the time being, but it also helped me analyze my own feelings about the quake. Analyzing my feelings, at least from an external point of view through the characters themselves, helped me face the next few weeks with a positive attitude. Life goes on, or more precisely, life must go on. Many thanks to those of you who breathe life into these characters for making them so human that the reader can relate to them.

Lately, I have been watching the local news and have been hearing complaints about how the major networks have been handling the earthquake story. Supposedly, the image presented to the rest of the nation is that San Francisco has been levelled by the quake and by fires. Is this what you (Marvel) and the readers have been led to believe? The truth is that only a small area of San Francisco has suffered major damage. Unfortunately, the Santa Cruz area is a mess. I was wondering if anyone at Marvel or any of the readers have any comments about this. From what you have seen on TV, do you think San Francisco is still standing?

José Mijares
122 Bucareli Dr.
San Francisco, CA 94132

Well, we can't speak for the rest of the country, José, but here in the New York area, we got the impression that parts of the city were relatively unharmed although there had been a tragically great loss of property and life in other areas. Maybe some folks from other parts of the country will write to you and fill you in on the story as they heard it.

Still, though, the important thing is that you're okay. We've been getting similar reports about various friends from around the area, so, all in all, we're pretty thankful. And we're glad that our comics helped you get through what must have been an enormously difficult period. Hope things have settled down to normal by now.

Dear Sir or Madame,

I was wondering if **Todd McFarlane** was going to come out with a SPIDER-MAN Graphic Novel. What is **Art Adams** working on, and is it true that he's working on a LONGSHOT series? I hope it's longer than the Limited Series.

Thanks for your help. I really appreciate it.

Daniel J. Williams
4233 Bidshop
Quincy, IL 62301

Yup, Daniel, it is indeed true that Art is hard at work (along with scripter Ann Nocenti) on a new limited series featuring the ludicrously lucky Longshot! The series has been a while in coming, but rest assured that it's on the way.

And as for Todd McFarlane, well, there's good news and there's bad news. The bad news is that Todd is not working on a SPIDER-MAN Graphic Novel (although Charles Vess, who did such a nifty job on the Spider-Man limited edition lithographs, is). The good news is that the multi-talented Mr. McFarlane is drawing *and* writing a new monthly series starring the wall-crawler! Since we're already publishing THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, we've decided to call the new series SPIDER-MAN.

Imaginative, huh?

And on that slightly self-deprecating note, it's time to bid a fond adieu to yet another in our near-infinite series of letter columns (Collect them all!). But there's still enough space for us to stick in a senses-shattering selection of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS, those happy campers from hither and yon who are looking to establish postal relations with people around the globe. So why not take a minute and drop one or two of 'em a line? After all, a piece of stationery is a terrible thing to waste!

ANSWERS TO MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. A	5. C	9. C
2. B	6. C	10. A
3. A	7. A	11. A
4. C	8. A	12. D

MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS

If you want to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents at the address high atop this letter column. Now, that wasn't so hard, was it?

Marc Shivers
979 Kahena St.
Honolulu, HI 96825
Age: 17
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, X-MEN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Jason Clum
45 South Modoc
Medford, OR 97504
Age: 13
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS

Chris Harrison
4625 S. Vancouver
Tulsa, OK 74107
Age: 20
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, SPIDER-MAN, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Barry Spence
43 Buckstone Lea
Edinburgh
SCOTLAND EH10 6XE
Age: 13
Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, X-FACTOR, NEW MUTANTS

Tammey Reed
1144 W. 220th Street
Torrance, CA 90502
Age: 28
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, CLASSIC X-MEN, NIGHTCRAWLER

Jeffrey A Marcotte
9715 Richmond Drive
Kansas City, MO 64134
Age: 21
Favorites: ALL MUTANT titles, ALL AVENGERS titles, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Stuart Schreck
104 Birch Road
Staten Island, NY 10303
Age: 16
Favorites: AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS

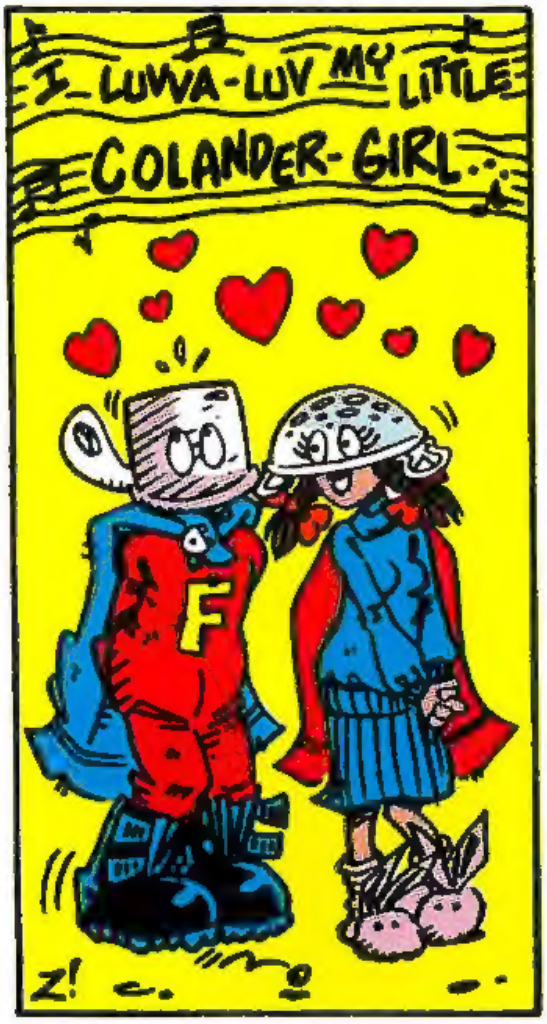
Jens Thomsen
Lunden 8
8464 Galten
DENMARK
Age: 14
Favorites: WOLVERINE, PUNISHER, DEATH'S HEAD

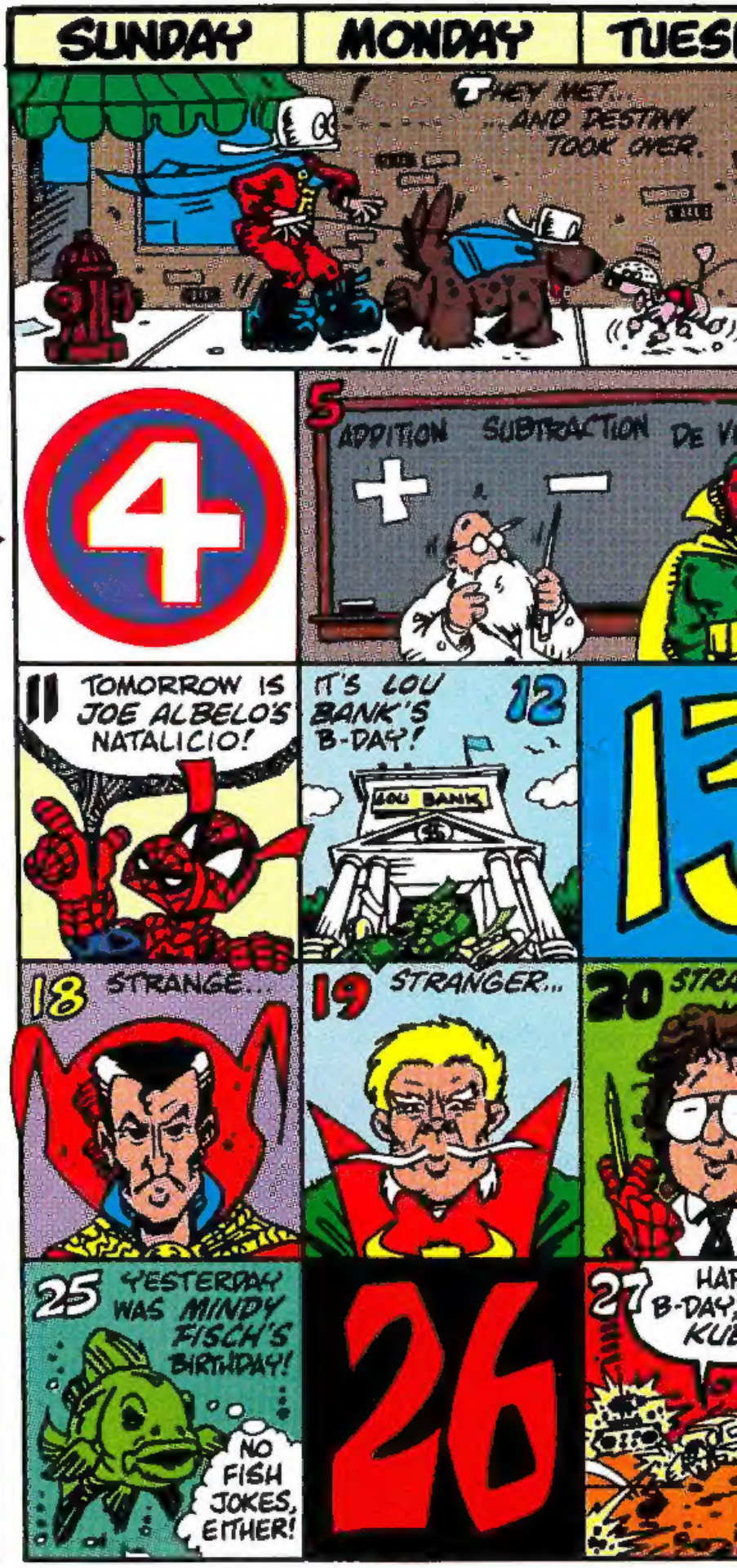
Alan Keeney
6408 Mignonette
Bakersfield, CA 93308
Age: 12
Favorites: DAREDEVIL, ALPHA FLIGHT, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL.

THE 1990 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

WRITERS: CHRIS ELIOPOLOUS AND BARRY DUTTER
ARTIST: RON ZALME
COLORIST: GREGORY WRIGHT





DAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
1 SUZZANE GAFFNEY'S BIRTHDAY!
ZZZT
TAK TAKK TAK TAK
2
HEY! STOP! I'M THE WATCHER! IT'S MY JOB!!
SURE.
3
6
7
8
WOT'S DA DEAL?!
ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER!
9 FALLEN ANGEL JO DUFFY'S BIRTHDAY!
10
13
VALENTINE'S
14
YESTERDAY WAS CAROL KALISH OF DIRECT SALES' B-DAY!
15
16 SANDMAN AS A CHILD...
17 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVE FOX FROM STARFOX!
21 BARRY KAPLAN CELEBRATES HIS B-DAY TODAY! (HE SIGNS OUR CHECKS)
THANKS, BARRY!
22
23 COLORIST JANET JACKSON'S B-DAY...
...AND NO MICHAEL JACKSON JOKES!
24
I'M BAD...
YOU KNOW IT.
28 TOMORROW IS COLORIST NEL YOMTOV'S BIRTHDAY!
FORBUSH-MAN'S LOVE STORY:
THAT AWKWARD FIRST KISS--
KLANG!

THE 1990 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

MARCH

WRITERS: CHRIS ELIOPOLOUS AND BARRY DUTTER
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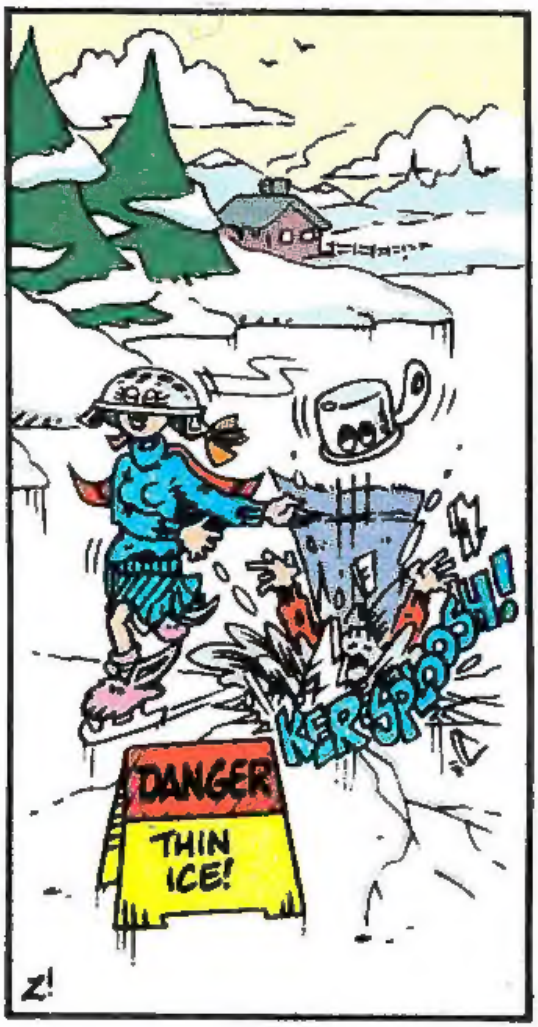

AY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
1
IT'S TOM ORZECHOWSKI'S BIRTHDAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARK EVANIER!
2
3
E FOR GROM. HDAY! T!
IT'S ALAN WEISS' B-DAY!
7
8
GALACTUS GETS A MIDNIGHT SNACK...
9
MOONS
10
13
14
15
IT'S BOB BUDIANSKY'S BIRTHDAY!
16
17
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
VINCE: GOD OF COVERS.
RER A -DAY!
21
YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING.
22
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SIMON FURMAN!
S
F
23
ABSORBING MAN...
HERE!
...HIS SON-- ABSORBING JR.
24
28
...OUT LIKE A LAMB!!
29
30
AAAA
31